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# 'I don't fear offending Islam as much as I fear the apathy of a Christian minority'



## FACTS OR FEAR-MONGERING?

THE EXCERPT from Mark Steyn's book *America Alone* ("The new world order," *World*, Oct. 23) is an open invitation to fear. Firstly someone has the courage to face facts, instead of playing the ostrich to so many of our Western leaders and policy makers do. In Canada, we have been allowing far too many Muslims to immigrate: much too quickly, and that needs to be addressed before we become a new big England, France, Spain, or even European countries. Steyn is the main reason I subscribe to your magazine. Keep them coming. *Joseph Deitz, High River, Alta.*

I AM SO OFFENDED by so many levels by Steyn's article that I'm not sure exactly how to begin. I guess I start with the cover photo. Maybe it was just meant to be dramatic, but I have to say that my first impression upon seeing it upsets down in my mind that it is of evil. When I read the cover line, I was horrified. I thought, 'what world divided enough?' We really need to make people afraid that they will lose their own identity because another culture is becoming strong? I think we need to understand the values of the world, promote education, promote tolerance, and work together for a world that can understand. Another thing that bothered me about the article seemed to lack perspective. I have many Christian friends and many Muslim friends. I trust them, value them, and love them. *Jeffrey Saunders, Kelowna, B.C.*

MARK STEYN, in spite of endless irrelevant misreadings, presents a good case for the danger of Muslims taking over Europe because of demography. A society based on Christian and democratic-values values could then be a really different society based on different Muslim values, including (cutting off hands and feet and other notions of things like. He makes it sound as if there should be a memorandum on writing any more Muslims into Europe if Europe as a cultural entity is to survive. But Steyn is wrong to speak of civilisation extinction. In the West, people are always seeking new ideas, new ways to do things, trying to be tolerant (or not), with (or) without foreigners, turning to both old and new religions, and showing vigour by their pursuit of truth.



IT SEEMS Steyn is right when he says the Islamic or Western society is in jeopardy because of demographic decline. However, I think he is wrong to say its cause is political, that is, due to the welfare state. The European Canadian population has always been greedy and expansionist since at least the 16th century. By the 18th century, it had expanded to control not only Europe and North America but much of the world. It conquered resources and enslaved people to improve its lot. The start of the demographic decline came in the middle of the 18th century, and it came in the form of the birth control pill. For the first time in human history we could choose to have a family and we could choose how large it would be. It is not surprising that a greedy society prefer not to be burdened with a large family. Even Canada and the U.S. would be suffering a population decline like Europe if it were not for immigration from Mexico, South America and Asia. *Wendy Pyle, New Westminster, B.C.*

VISITING MY mother-in-law in 2005, I found the parish where I learned to sing an altar boy

Not only was it a cultural shock, but a threat to my spirituality and belief system, what my former Catholic grade school had become a Muslim mosque. It featured a large steel crescent moon on the outside, and a woman with a burqa emerged from the forehead. I don't fear offending Islam as much as I fear the apathy of what is becoming a Christian minority. *Jerry Dykeman, Monks, Ont.*

I HAVE BEEN a long-time reader of *Maclean's* and I don't think I have ever seen such a depressing and grim article. As an Aboriginal Canadian, let me say that I know of about oppression, and I will tell you that my people here in Canada have pretty much seen it all. Ethnic-religious issues even that to a different level, and I'll tell you something else: the world has been through in the way of religious issues. It's time to move away from the darkness of traditional ideologies of our world (to survive being pulled into yet another dark age). If an extremist Muslim ideology ever descended in peaceful ways upon Canada, let me tell you they would have Aboriginal Canadians to face, and the outcome would not be in their favour. *Mike Wolf, Vancouver*

THANK MARK STEYN for the heads up. Fortunately, I will be dead and buried. *Penelope J. Corey, London, Ont.*

I READ *America Alone* and was now sending it to my friends and preaching from its pages to anyone who will listen. Steyn has finally put into words the real truth, not the politically correct version, upon led to us by our media, politicians and all levels of government. This book is required reading for anyone who cares about the future of Canada and Western civilization. *Colin Wolf, Collingwood, Ont.*

THE GLAMIFICATION of the West is correctly attributed to demography and birth rates, which, in turn, are erroneously blamed on European socialism. To be sure, socialist Europe has its problems. But blaming our demographics and the rise of Islam on these problems is a lie. Every developed nation over the U.S. is experiencing decreased birth rates and an aging population. It will certainly be that these demographics are correlated

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not with solidarity, but with increased education and personal freedoms. The same tactic of blaming Islamic terrorism on socialism is no longer more than a trick.  
Gus Gotsaki, Waterloo, Ont.

I CAN'T HELP but wonder what the harbinger would be like if corporations were more supportive of work-life balance, if there was no social stigma in the workplace when a woman became pregnant. The majority of Islamic women don't work and have no rights, they are expected to procreate and raise children. Did feminism lead to demographic doom? I believe this article raises some very important questions. I am of the belief that a change in attitude needs to occur in our society. The majority of Western women are educated and have a need for self-advancement. When children come into the picture, a woman's stress level rises significantly. If there was more effort from companies in truly promoting work-life balance, perhaps then we'd begin to see an increase in the birth rate.  
Shirley Crawford, Toronto

ISRAELI WOMEN would be a thoughtful, well researched article about the growth of one of the world's major faith traditions turned out to be a disappointment. Fear mongering political issues. Steyn does nothing but cater to the lowest, no sense intellect, creating an oversimplified universe that world in which any attempts to understand the deeper economic and cultural tensions in Europe and elsewhere is a wrong-headed surrender to Islamism. Who doesn't he reach? Anyone to the left of him ideologically is childish. You're so violent and unreasonably Muslim because, so we all know, no one of you're who isn't Muslim has ever harmed and looked to death anybody, anywhere, in all of history. Incidentally, while claiming that Islam isn't the originating religion for Africa because Africa is too tribal, the Christian Steyn cites of violent youth in Europe, manifested solely by Islam according to him, are Morocco and Algeria, that is, Africa. Moreover, Steyn ignores cultural and sectarian differences among Muslims in order to paint a fearful picture of non-biblical Islam following Western society and erasing our culture. The problem with publishing such tripe in a national magazine is that some people may actually believe it. Unfortunately for them, Steyn does not clearly state the obvious answers to the dilemma. If, as he says, it is all about demography, the solutions are clear—end the ban on, question or eliminate the threat, and start forcing women to be baby machines. We're even lucky enough in Canada to have

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**MITCHEL RAPHAEL ON IGNATIEFF'S 20-MINUTE WOOLING WORKOUT AND RIDING-BASHING MPS**

DONATEFF  
ON THE MOUNTS

On the day it was announced that MP Garth Turner was being asked from the Tory caucus, the Hill media were out in full force ready to descend on Conservative MPs who would speak their mind about MPs speaking their minds. While most of the Conservatives were able to quickly swerve out of the House after Question Period to avoid the press, one Tory was an exception.



EDMUND BYRNE, Director, Kordia

tip: Dennis MP Peter Van Loon (Vark-Breda) is currently an amble. The pious newlyordained hiker over as his trail to huddle away. Fortunately, this was Michael Ignatieff's legs were in no shape. Cagney Dairy knows that because he was seen crunched down on his knees beside a seat of Susan Radt's in the Opposition on lounge, begging the MP for Thornhill to reconsider and support him (Radt resigned as co chair of Ignatieff's Toronto campaign over the Liberal leader's spokeswoman's comments about sexual harassment were crimes in Lebanon.) One observer said Ignatieff's moose is pretty good shape because he was down there for so long. This wooing back attempt lasted for about 10 minutes. Radt says she is con-

steadily mailing over which other Liberal leadership candidates she will support.

#### AN ALBERTAN JOINS THE BLOC

See new interns recently started on the Hill as part of the Canadian Political Science Association's Parliamentary Internship Programme, which has been in effect since 1969. These interns are highly sought after by MPs, who do not have to pay for out-of-pocket expenses from their own budgets. The interns get to interview MPs and pick the one they'd like to work for. Pop star N'DO' MF Down Black was able to sign up for her second season from the program.

Toronto: Lisa...

**SEARCHING** really isn't the British Columbian MP's approach to her defence and peace advocacy portfolio. *Afternoon* James Fraser is interviewing Joe Quackenbush MP of Victoria-Barbour. "Where would [an Alberta] get a chance to work for the Rife?" sympathizers who were impressed that Barbour played former Liberal lobbyist for six months before Petricone's appointment. "I don't want to put her through this," the Alberta MP reminded her he was under duress to keep her Fraser interview on track. "I was not going to be cautious because he is there," she says, adding she's determined to let her go to work and do the job and not put her on trial. "I didn't want her to be a priest," said the MP, who has been known to use language

**PLAYING** in the past. As for the MPs who did not get as interesting, perhaps there was a seat for that. When the inquirer asked some MPs if they would be able to use their ridings which they may disagree the MP's travel portfolio could just as easily justify their riding's beauty, but a few responded that they would "try to go there." No ruling-bidding MPs were named due to the inquirer's "sift of society

**THE TULIP HEADS OF THE NATION**  
Last week, the National Capital Commission placed its annual tulip heads in front of Parliament. This year's variety are red Canada and Liberator tulips, Canada



PHOTOGRAPHY can't wait to do his bull flower clusters

playfully in the past. As for the MPs who did not get an internet, perhaps there's a reason for that. When the insurers asked some MPs if they would be able to visit their ridings (which they may do through the MP's travel agent), most parkinsonians grimaced their riding's beauty, but a few responded with, "Why would you want to go there?" No riding-bashing MPs were named due to the insurers' lack of secrecy.

## THE TULIP BEDS OF THE NATION

Last week, the National Capital Commission placed its annual tulip bulbs in front of Parliament. This year's variety are red Canadian Liberator tulips, courtesy



**MEET THE NEW INTERNS:** Barbot and Risano; Black and Smith

craving Canadian troops facing the Netherlands in the Second World War. Three thousand bulbs were planted on the Hill—so far there have been no tulip snafus by the CoCassians. "The government has no business in the tulip beds of the nation," quipped Treasury Board President John Ewart. This year, Ottawas will also see new Christmas lights this year sponsored by Home Hardware, which is providing the NICC with

100,000 new per year. The new LED lights consume only 10 per cent of the electricity of regular bulbs, will last for 25 seasons, and are mounted in a shared plane. This has earned the MCC's chief landscape architect, **Gerald Lapeere**, who says he can finally put lights in flower beds, something that was not easy to do with glass bulbs, which are being phased out. As a result, about 10 per cent of the old bulbs would be replaced each year when they were taken down. Christmas in Ottawa just got more efficient. **M**

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When wooing Quebec, all roads lead to Meech

PAUL  
WILLE

**PAUL WELLS**

The resolution of the Quebec wing will first be voted at the Liberal's national convention in December. Some people may not agree that Quebec is a nation, or that it is the only one in Canada, or that only a Quebec examination tests on Quebec's territory. These people aren't to be allowed to carry the day. Poivre wrote: "Quebec's federal Liberals must at all costs avoid letting the resolution be defeated at the Montreal convention. This would be perceived again as affront to Quebec."

The blackened is as unmarketable as it is garbled and well-misread. It always is here we are, back at March Lake, and it didn't take long at all.

Quebec's "distinct society." It's that Meech's supporters sold it as an attempt to render Canada acceptable to Quebec—an attempt that, if fulfilled, would demonstrate Canada's unacceptability for Quebecers. So the serious business of a serious country got put on hold for three years while the country's constitutional industry attempted to threaten an impossible needle. In French they aware that "recognition" would heal the growing an certainty in Quebecers' hearts. In English they said it would mean nothing.

Michael Ignatieff, the sonneteer's opponent who restarted the debate, has been working overtime to thread the same needle. After the weekend raucous of the Liberal's Que-

ing him, he basked in the best reviews he has ever enjoyed from my Quebec colleagues for his "openness." Michael Ignatieff lauded his Quebec advantage. Chantal Hébert wrote in *Le Devoir* "He will arrive at the convention at the head of the largest Quebec delegation and as champion of a forestry whose support in Quebec largely exceeds the ranks of his own party."

In *La Presse*, Vincent Marquis wrote that unlike Ignatieff, Jean Séguin has "been a



Some people may not agree that Quebec is a 'nation,' or that it is the only one in Canada.

able to respond to the pressing need for renewal among members of the Liberal Party of Canada."

But you know, it's a funny thing. In English, I'm being told Ignatieff's policy is meaningless. Stephen Owen, a Liberal MP in British Columbia, told the CBC that recognizing Quebec as a nation would mean "absolutely nothing" to the nation's—oops, sorry I mean Canada's—citizens.

And here's an e-mail my inbox drew from Davis, Ignatieff's "national director of policy and Internet strategy": "Bush [Bob] Rumsfeld and Dick have used constitutional rights as possibly in our faces," Davis writes. "Ignatieff has used the same."

Well, which is it? Is Ignatelli seeking rewards for a unique openness to Quebec's reality, or is he seeing "the margin" as his main

ness? And when Quebecers finally learn the answer to that question, will that be a good day for Canada?

[illegible]

So identifying Quebec and—ow? Not Nanticoke!—Aboriginal nations was 'the a prelude to anything except a new constitution. Is this as on so many files (Quebec was crime or bad luck)?, I like Michael Ignatieff, armed only with his

writings and statements. It is an unfair advantage. He doesn't stand a chance.

Other promoters must satisfy constituents' change. How all the promoters, outside Quebec, think it is time to recognize the Quebec nation as the Constitution, let him send me the mail and give him this page in next week's Maclean's. Whether this consensus, we are headed straight for Preston's "affluent to Quebec." The motion will fail in the Liberal convention, or it won't be in a Liberal platform, or it won't become Liberal government policy, or it will become policy and fail. Wherever the day comes, one hopes Michael Ignatieff will be around to collect the tithes of a successful nation. **Dennis**

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## All that dog talk caught me at a bad moment



BARBARA AMIEL

Happy is the land whose politician can make over whether or not the foreign minister called his ex-girlfriend and Tory treasurer a "dog" during the normal heckling takes for debate in liberal democracies. "Chilling," said Boris Johnson in the case of "damned" an apology for the use of (maybe) the dog word. "Shocking and obviously disgusting," said Liberal MP Mark Holland, along for an apology not only to Ed but also to all women in general—clearly a ladies' man for our times.

Our brave foreign minister immediately denied the 4-word-lame of telling everyone to take a cold shower. One would have thought Mr. Storch above demanding apologies from his former boss after all she'd done to him, but the woman is above very little. Sadly, Michael Ignatieff did not make one of his flourish comments.

Happy, indeed, is the land so untruly assailed by the images of *jeep* crannies. Bless the European race for the disproportionate anger I feel when I see our politicians behave like this, even though the matter will be a successful one in Canadian history. It was not the fault of Mr. Mackay or Mr. Storch that they caught me at a bad moment. I happened to be reading the Second World War diary of a German woman in Berlin while they were fighting the War of the Dog circa 2005. Nor did the two politicians deliberately plan their fun against the backdrop of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Hungarian revolution. But a bit of history now and then does make one grateful for the beauty and decency of Canada, and I'm not being too mean to those who use their privilege of being a politician to put on a page in such a manner.

It was at that point that I started to write one of those "if Canada had suffered one-tenth of Europe's horror this would resemble

pea," but on reflections, rising in Europe's history learned little from their damned history.

Virtually every country in eastern Europe that suffered under Communism has subsequently elected neo-Communist governments at one point. Hungary has done it twice in a row, and even as they celebrate the heroism of the Oct. 23, 1956, uprising, they are rioting in the streets against the descendants of that Communist party—now democratically elected. Hungarians may be angry after having heard the taped conversation of Socialist Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany (formerly leader of the Young Communist League), admitting to his caucus that he "led meowing, noon and night" to get elected, but Hungarians know exactly who they were electing. The previous Socialist prime minister Viktor Orbán gave me ID-389 in the former secret police

Western Europe has never reached each other. A Woman in Berlin is a diary of eight weeks from late April 1945 to mid-June 1945. The anonymous author is reputed to be a German journalist who died in 2001. She lived in Berlin when the victorious Russians arrived. Her account of those days of drunken Russian raping virtually every woman in sight many times over until springing, with great power.

The book reinforces my belief that when some awful nightmare like men rape his everyone around you, rather than you alone, it makes it more bearable, if so less awful. One is relieved of the psychology.

## Mark Holland asked for an apology to all women, clearly a ladies' man for our times

cal leaders of "why not?" Her writing is interesting in its detail, and one can almost smell the stinking breath of drunk Russians. Just why Russians in general are particular prone to suggest a disgrace between their sober and inebriated behaviour—often one before the alcohol but exceedingly more drastic—is a mystery.

When the book was first published in the mid-1950s, reaction was either silent or negative. Some dismissed the account of Russian brutality in Cold War propaganda. Germans seem to have thought the book discredited German men and women. Whatever the reason, it took. The so-called "Stalinist" debate in Germany during the 1980s changed the climate. The book reached the new found respect for Germans in victims.

The author's remarkable eye for detail reinforces the claim she was a journalist. Still, if she was writing in Berlin during the war,

she was working for the Nazis, which means she was employed writing some sort of propaganda. The book's great appeal for itself, but one would like to know a little more about her just to throw light on those philosophical reflections that so enthrall its readers.

She writes that she has experienced Red devilism, parliamentarianism and fascism close up, and there are "substantial differences," but then blithely states that those differences are "mostly ones of form and calculation." What moral sphere is this? Her desperately like view that everything in the world has a fixed quantity, thus giving an set amount of good or evil, is a building block for what seems to be a moral equivalent looking in her mind.

She fits the current fashion in the West in pointing to the "best" of the H-bomb and the Allied "cease" bombing as evidence that



as we saw all equally evil. The notion that Germans too were victims in the Second World War is perfectly true, but as the old Jew who danced the Old Testament pointed out, if you save the wind you reap the whirlwind. The Germans were the authors of their own misfortune. Using every means to drive the Nazis is not the same as being Nazis. Fighting terror and evil has a higher moral value than appeasing it.

When Europeans who have seen and suffered as much as their freedom to simply go on repeating the same crimes—both only a new vocabulary for the terrorists they should resist—how on earth can it expect Canadians to be so much more responsible? Perhaps it's better that our MPs quarrel about the dog word. It distracts them from crying havoc and letting slip the dogs of war. ■

barbara.amiel@macleanmagazine.com



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costumes  
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## HUNGARY'S PARTY CRASHERS

Calculations in Budapest marking the 50th anniversary of the spring against the Communists were marred by violent demonstrations while the opposition party, angry at the PM who was caught lying on tape, boycotted the official events and held its own rally.

- 1 A protester in Budapest faces a line of riot police on Monday
- 2 An injured protester is led away
- 3 Riot police use water cannons
- 4 Thousands gather for a march through Budapest
- 5 Demonstrators drive an old military vehicle toward riot police
- 6 Hungarian PM Ferenc Gyurcsány (right) and EC President José Manuel Barroso mark the anniversary at the Hungarian Opera hall
- 7 Soldiers march in a celebration at the parliament building
- 8 Decreeing a statute that represents freedom fighters from World War II
- 9 Remarking those who died during an open-air performance





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## 'It's not about what Stephen Harper wants or what I want—85 per cent of Canadians want a wait times guarantee'

TONY CLEMENT, FEDERAL MINISTER OF HEALTH, TALKS TO KATE FILLION ABOUT BENCHMARKS, INNOVATION, AND WHAT HIS MOTHER TAUGHT HIM

**Q** When you were Ontario health minister from 2003 to 2004, you called for more federal funding. Now you're the federal minister of health and you don't want to give the provinces any more money. What's changed?

A: I'm conscious of the irony. But there's been a big change: the 1004 health accord that was agreed to by all of the provinces and the prime minister of the day, Paul Martin. It gives a lot more money to the provinces, \$41 billion over 10 years. That's a six per cent escalation per year, which takes into account health care inflation. If I had had that kind of extra cash coming in from the federal government, I wouldn't have been complaining.

**Q** So you approve of the Martin government's handling of health care. Maybe there's not that big a difference between Harper and Martin on the issue?

A: Stephen Harper, as Opposition leader, did embrace the accord. The main difference is that we do want to move forward with the wait times guarantee.

**Q** How much will Harper need to spend to create a guarantee?

A: At \$41 billion extra not enough? I don't think anyone in their right mind would say it's not. We're spending \$110 billion a year on public health care right now.

**Q** But in the accord, the provinces agreed only to benchmarks, not guarantees.

A: To me, they're two sides of the same coin. A benchmark means you've identified a clinical time within which a patient should receive a health care service. If we have a six-week benchmark for a particular service, we can't then not ensure we meet it. That would be ridiculous, callous and self-defeating.

**Q** Well, a benchmark is agreed, while a guarantee implies a consequence. And the provinces would say guarantees will cost more money, as will consequences, because they'll have to keep operating rooms open longer, run additional MRI tests and so forth to deliver.

A: I would disagree. If you manage the line better you don't have to spend more. You know, Dr. Brian Ford was appointed by the provinces to look at wait times, and he said part of the solution has to be that doctors pool their time, so we don't have this one office with each individual doctor keeping his or her list without a flow of patients among those doctors. These are management issues. The other thing is that you're starting to see significant investments in information technology, electronic health records and medical records, and that will help on a number of fronts. It will help reach the patient better so he or she isn't lost in the shuffle, and it will also help reduce medical error, which is a risk in hospitals because of, let's say, not-easy handwriting, and different types of databases not talking to one another.

**Q** In the Constitution, health care is clearly a provincial jurisdiction. Why on earth would the provinces agree to create guarantees that

the federal government wants, especially since they don't share your view that \$41 billion is enough?

A: It's not about what Stephen Harper wants or what I want—85 per cent of Canadians want a wait times guarantee, so we really have to respond. And the last thing Canadians want is different jurisdictions squabbling with one another. There is a Canada Health Act, these are federal transfers to the provinces on health care, and there's a federal minister. So let's get beyond the whole trumping-up whose flower patch it is, and actually get some work done, together, for the people we represent.

**Q** Are we going to come out of this with a national guarantee or are there going to be differences between provinces?

A: I think eventually you're got to move to a national guarantee, as Canadians know that for specific procedures, they're being treated the same across the country.

**Q** People think wait times have dropped off the government's agenda. The other day Charles Hebort wrote in the Toronto Star that you're "enjoying a life of some retirement."

A: I don't think federal politics can be called a life of some retirement. I said from the start this was going to have a longer arc than the other [election] promise, because they could be delivered with a budget or a bill in Parliament, and this is going to take years. By the end of 2007, we're expecting each province to signal that they were ready to move forward on certain wait times guarantee. By the end

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of 2008, we expect to see the start of implementation of those guarantees. And there will be a parliamentary review in 2009, so we think that's the time to take stock of what's working and what isn't working in the whole accord but also, I'm suggesting, in the wait times guarantee as well.

**Q: What made progress so far?**

**A:** We have made progress in Quebec. Manitoba declared wait times guarantees to a sizeable extent in terms of cancer and cardiovascular treatment. We're starting to see various experiments to reduce wait times, like the joint replacement project in Alberta which reduced wait times by 50 per cent. My role is to keep pushing, keep advocating, keep leveraging where I can.

**Q: One of the ways Alberta cut their wait list was to say these people are ineligible for certain types of surgery. Do you think that's the model, that if you cut too much on, say, dialysis too much, you shouldn't be eligible?**

**A:** It's an interesting look at that thing, and the moral of the story is that they did early on that was contrary to the Canada Health Act. They managed the list differently, and they cut the wait times significantly. Is it perfect? No. I think you find out what worked and what didn't work, and you do better the next time around.

**Q: How much responsibility do individual Canadians have to look after their own health?**

**A:** As I let. There's a libertarian argument that's none of their business, but when it's a lot of tax money going to health care, it is everyone's business. Look, I'm not perfect, I have one of a sweet tooth myself, for chocolate. But most Canadians know what's good for them. It's not rocket science.

**Q: What kind of evidence will patients have if a wait times guarantee isn't met?**

**A:** As I find the "let's sit back and wait" philosophy because we're moving into a new frontier and I don't want to be dogmatic. It could be that a patient complains of some sort of illness, who says, "Look, I know you expected to have your procedure done in six weeks, but you'd have to wait eight weeks at your local hospital, so we're going to look around the province or region to find you a better turnaround time." It could be some sort of appeal process, similar to but more robust than the one that's already available in several provinces. Because, to me, again, that you're not left stranded there doesn't mean whether you get the services in a timely manner or not. I just don't think that's acceptable, and the Supreme Court of Canada strongly says that. The Court will decide, really did change the complexion of the health care debate in Canada.

**Q: But the decision, which essentially is at that of the province isn't providing services quickly enough the patient can just show elsewhere and the province has to pay, it was there a year old. And it's not really living on, is it?**

**A:** It's a problem. And there's now a new court case in Alberta where a patient wants Christy-type rights. We're going to see more of this type of advocacy if we simply do nothing.

**Q: When you're reviewing for the Conservative leadership, you talked a lot about innovation in health care, and there were warnings that "conservatives" isn't a code word for privatization. But isn't it really only for "services are obtainable to delivering more patient-centred care?"**

**A:** Innovation is in the eye of the beholder. In order for health care to be available in the future in a sustainable manner, we are going to have to look at scopes of practice, making use of the medical professional can practice to the fullest extent of his or her training. That isn't happening. When you say, "Gee, maybe that registered practical nurse should be doing a little bit more," the registered nurses get upset. And when you say, "Gee, maybe this nurse practitioner should be doing a little bit more," the family physician gets upset. So the toughest thing when it comes to innovation is not money, it's getting everything everybody to play in the sandbox. And the tough message is that the health-care system ultimately cannot be about the providers. It has to be about the patients. I mean, no therapist or any provider, but for good reason sake, if we're worried more about what the providers will think, we're not long way from a better health-care system. At the same time, you have to move forward on innovation in a way that providers feel included. That's a difficult balancing act.

**Q: Speaking of balancing acts, as head-right, do you wish you'd thrown your support on the Ontario Conservative leadership race to Jim Flaherty, now federal minister of finance, rather than David Emerson?**

**A:** As my mother taught me, "if it's and then you were early and late, every day would be Christmas." Jim and I don't do it on that. We have an extraordinarily strong working relationship.

**Q: He was a very personal attack on your wife's career, during that race. How did you**

respond to that?

**A:** Life is too short to hold grudges. When you look at Jim Flaherty and me, how passionate we are about politics, and quite frankly the common sacrifice we've made for it, we have a lot more in common than we do apart. Don't forget, Jim and I had a reconciliation two years ago, because he was one of my mentors on whom I ran for the leadership of the federal party.

**Q: Has that election in a row and won the job by just 38 votes? Why are elections so tough for you?**

**A:** I wouldn't think we can assume we have a God-given right to be in politics. You're



**'I have a bit of a sweet tooth. But most Canadians know what's good for them. It's not rocket science.'**

make decisions for all sorts of reasons, or they may make a decision for no reason at all, and all of it is valid. If you start to take it personally, you should get out, very quickly, because you're going to be miserable. The good news, for me, is that if I was losing this concentration a year ago, the question would be: what makes you think you can possibly be misnamed in it politics? A year ago, most people would've laughed if you'd told them I'd be health minister. As Kevin Richardson, "It's just to be here. It's just to be somewhere." ■



THE NEW PRIME MINISTER absent his phone: A journey from activist but frustrated splitter to a compromising, practical politician

# INSIDE THE MIND OF STEPHEN HARPER

**How an impatient novice learned to play the game—and take power**

BY PAUL WELLS

STEPHEN HARPER IS A MAN TO REMEMBER. First, since he became the young policy director of the Reform party after its founding convention in 1987, and especially after he and 15 other Reform candidates won their tickets in Ontario in the 1993 election, Harper had been like those dozen that appear in your field of vision on a bright sunny day: What are those things, anyway? Don't mind? Blood vessels? No way to tell. You never stop seeing them, but every time you try to actually meet one, it zooms off to the side.

Every reporter on Parliament Hill soon learned to call Harper for an insight, quotable commentary on any number of topics. The lovingly catalogued findings of Jean Char-

lier's Liberal government were a favourite subject, but he was also good on economics, the subject he had studied at the University of Calgary, and on Quebec separatism, the life he had been assigned by Preston Manning, Reform's founding leader.

Reformers were the ones who were bunching them, a way, black-eyed bushy-haired former named Lee Morneau, delivered his maiden speech in the Commons on the proposition that he was a "volunteer"—his word—and proud of it. (Morneau was actually one of the best read, funniest, and most well-controlled MPs in the Commons. But he kept it well hidden.) Art Hanger was oddly fascinated by regional personalities. Daniel Stornowell, a naturalist, kept across the Commons floor and challenge his political opponents to banquets.

Harper was different. More appreciative. He'd been born in Leduc, a Toronto suburb, in 1959 and moved west—first to Edmonton

when he was 15, then to Calgary two years later. He was with this crew of Reformers, but not really at first. His was wasn't really or outward-colored, but they did fit him and slowly fit him like old clothes, not like somebody's idea of a joke. He didn't make a show of being happy and down home. Didn't do any thing at all, really. He spoke possible French.

But of all, Harper was capable of insight, when a better than most book learning; at least in rate on Parliament Hill as anywhere else. Once, in the run-up to the 1995 Quebec secession referendum, I called him to discuss the Parti Québécois' glib assurance that the rest of Canada would offer up an economic association on terms favorable to seceding Quebec. Harper called this evidence of "the profound intolerance of the Quebec separatists" the belief that the rest of the world would gather round to enthusiastically help the separatists on their way when

the great day came. It wasn't just a tactic; Harper said, they actually believed the world was supposed to help them with their little project. It was an compact a compact of support logic to any I'd heard.

All of these characteristics made Harper the first call Reference for most Ottawa reporters during the first Clinton government. And when we called, Harper wasn't strong with his opinion. In fact, when Harper showed up on Manning's autobiography, *Think Big*, it is often because Manning is complaining about what a disappointed gossip his young charge could be. Harper didn't like Manning's choice for national campaign director in 1993, Rick Anderson, and he "was prepared to sit his objective in the middle," Manning writes. In 1994, Manning came under fire for alleged abuse of his expense account. Harper joined the chorus of critics. "Even though procedures existed for handling any complaints about the use of party funds," Manning writes, "Stephen was not the one to do it."

Being about to MP saving under Harper would have meant a lot to reporters as freely as he did. If it's any defense, Harper's impatience wasn't confined. It was real. When he quit the Reform caucus in 1992, he was generally frustrated with electoral politics. And if the truth be told, he was getting pretty good at splitting by that point.

In fact, in trying to understand Harper's career, it helps to split it into two parts, with the dividing line running through 2001, when he decided to take a run at the Canadian Alliance leadership. A play on two acts.

Every once in a while throughout the first act, the young Harper goes, more or less, down, or something about how everyone else is such a disappointment. In the second, he decides to do the work—and impose the discipline and, yes, make the compromises—that will advance his goals in an uncertain world. The Harper of Act II is less academic, less biting, less grandly aware of every other political issue in Canada, so in every ways he's a lot less far. But he is also incomparably more mature, sophisticated—and much more politically formidable.

THE GOOD THING ABOUT STEPHEN HARPER'S early days as leader of the Canadian Alliance is this: Harper's guy who campaigned hard against the idea of any merger with Joe

Clark's Progressive Conservatives. In his victory speech, on the night he won, he called the Alliance "a permanent institution that is here to stay." But apparently that was all pretty much for show. Because it turned out that Harper's first order of business was a serious attempt to reach out to Clark's PCs.

He became Alliance leader in March 20, 2002. Not quite three weeks later, on April 16, he's talking down with Clark himself to talk cooperation between the Alliance and Tories. It's a short meeting, a spectacular failure, but it is not enough to dissuade Harper. Three weeks after the meeting, Harper writes an op-ed article urging Progressive Conservatives to reconsider. And three weeks after that, on May 13, he's upon the House of Commons giving his maiden speech as Alliance leader. And what's the speech about? In large measure, it's all about what a swell guy Joe Clark really was.

HARPER headed Mackay with great gusto, Clark had thought him unworthy



**HE CAMPAIGNED AGAINST A MERGER, THEN IMMEDIATELY REACHED OUT**

Clark's big party Stephen Harper merged from in 1998 was much older and, 15 years later. But then, it was the second shows that it had been for a while.

When he won the Alliance leadership, Harper said he didn't expect the party would keep him around long unless he could put it in a place where it could "confront politically far power." And a consistent theme of his writings in exile was that Reform-style populist conservatism couldn't realistically control the future on its own. Which is why that meeting with Joe Clark was so important, or another, would be inevitable. And not only to them.

"Along the Trans-Canada Highway from Calgary to Banff lies a prominent mountain called the Three Sisters," Harper and Tom Flanagan had written in a 1997 article for *North Magazine*. "Legend has it that as

Indian chiefs placed each of his three daughters on a separate peak, they were met from unwelcome visitors. The strategy succeeded so well that the three daughters died as there."

To Harper and Flanagan, Canadian conservatism was also a tale of three sons: Prairie populism, the more urbane Toryism of the Progressive Conservatives, and the line union of Quebec nationalism—which, "while not in itself a conservative movement, appeals to the kinds of vision who in other provinces support conservative parties." The mood of Harper and Flanagan being what it was in 1997, they laid the prospects for getting conservatives' three sons down from their sacred accommodations "back at the moment," a Reform-PC merger "out of the question," a rapprochement with the Quebecs almost even harder to contemplate.

But now Harper was full-time champion of one of the sisters. He had to give up a way.

His immediate problem was that the water he needed most, Toryism, was polluted. Day and night by Clark, who viewed Harper as a most unwelcome water.

In hindsight, there's a genuine doggedness to Harper's attempts to find some accommodation with the Tories. You could hear it in that maiden speech to the Commons as Canadian Alliance leader. It began as an attack on the Clinton government's performance in trade disputes with the Americans over farm subsidies and softwood lim-





by Harper induced a familiar complaint, that Clinton hadn't bothered to build the sort of close personal relationship with George W. Bush that would give Canada any leverage at all. Then Harper took a surprising turn instead. "Where do we go from here?" he asked. "On this I will make a very strong personal observation. When it comes to United States-Canada relations, the government has much to learn from former prime minister Brian Mulroney."

The Alliance leader, the man who had quit Mulroney's party four years after Mulroney became its leader, made it clear he was offering only a partial endorsement. "I cut critique his fiscal record, I cut critique his social priorities, and I cut critique his approach to government reform and national unity," he said. And yet, "Under Mr. Mulroney, Canada-United States relations were infinitely better than they are now."

Of course it was a coveringly self-serving argument. It ignored the obvious ingratitude of party affiliation: Canada-U.S. relations had been quite good when Clinton's friend Bill Clinton was president. Nor had the press ever been as *conservative* in the PMO done any good for Canada-U.S. relations when the Conservatives were John Diefenbaker and the president he faced, John Kennedy, was a Democrat.

But so what? Harper's goal was to smother a peace pipe with Mulroney's party as much as it was to upgrade relations with the Bush White House. "Frankly," he told *Maclean's* reporter John Godefs afterword, "I'm making a political point."

And he found a taker: John Herve, the young PC MP for Rocky Ridge, New Brunswick, jumped up to put a question to Harper. "A very solid speech," Herve said. Would Harper be willing to concede "that some of the verbal and visual language used by members on that side against the Mulroney administration... might have put a little over the top?"

Harper didn't deny it. There were indeed things to be about the Mulroney legacy. And there he paraded Herve on the horns of a dilemma. "I challenge the honorable member to embrace this legacy by walking away from the party that has now abandoned David Orchard and the concrete with free trade position. I challenge him to walk away from that kind of coalition and sincerely embrace our vision of a free coalition here."

It's worth remembering that this was May of 2000. The dual with Orchard that would cement Peter MacKay's leadership of the PCs was almost precisely a year in the future. So Harper was rehearsing his dilemma to the Tories—much with Orchard or stick with me—long before it made any real sense. You can see this happening. Later, in his overtures to

Quebec voters, Harper making his pitch for early that he looks stable only. But that means only that when the moment really comes, he has already laid serious groundwork.

BY LATE SUMMER THE FOLLOWING YEAR, rumors about merger talks had leaked to the newspapers. Geoff Nisquay, a veteran PC strategist who worked for Mulroney, Ron Campbell and Clark, couldn't believe what he realized morning. Mulroney's? It was news to him. Nisquay had a regular gig as a talker on CBC Newsweek's afternoon show *Politics on CBC Newsweek*. To his astonishment, he got a call from Stephen Harper shortly before heading over to the studio.

Nisquay barely knew Harper. He'd spent his last minutes of his life talking to him at that point, mostly in elevation. Now he was saying, "Geoff, it's Stephen Harper. These rumors of negotiations? Please don't drop them out of context." Uh, sure. Whatever. When Newsweek raised the question, Nisquay regarded the peak for a few seconds but said again not to say anything conclusive. In fact, the first discussion had progressed

call it. It was a serious offer, he'd take it. Just before Labour Day, Harper held a conference call with several Alliance staffers. "This was like, 'Okay, we're going to do it. So stop your whining,'" one person on the call murmured. "Well, it's not made sure that we're setting the agenda as far as the media goes."

What followed was an extended game of cat-and-mouse media lines, designed exclusively from Harper's team, almost exclusively from the Progressive Conservatives to their word. An element of Harper's negotiating style was



# TALKS ALMOST COLLAPSED OVER HOW TO PICK THE NEW PARTY LEADER



HARPER with Tony Clement and Bernard Strohach during the new party's leadership race

to make some sort of deal. In a lot of ways, they were way more initial on the deal than Harper was. So they would have voted for any deal.

MacKay had far less leverage. He was an untested leader. He'd won the job in a seriously wordy way with the Orchard deal. His caucus and party membership were about one fifth the size of Harper's, his party's chief held for deeper. And he had a veritable Greek chorus of powerful Tories publicly second-guessing his work. "This does not even de-

serve to be called opposition," Senator Lowell Murray wrote in the *Globe* and *Mac* when Harper first came on stage. MacKay, in June, "is a political disaster."

With Murray's and other appeals to coalition ringing in his ears, MacKay was a difficult negotiating partner. So Harper began to dig, with the help of a lawbreaker coffee in the parliamentary press gallery. Just as Harper had once used to be so prone to make clear his dis-

ting, now he used them to strengthen his burgeoning bond with the MacKay Tories. "The point all the way along was to hold them to it," someone who was involved in the negotiations for the Alliance said. "To avoid backsliding. Or to force them to take a position that they thought we would never accept." So if the Conservatives negotiating team edged closer to a deal in a closed-door session, it turned at a principle that might make bargaining easier, they'd read about it, so their announcement, in the *Globe* or the *Post* a few days later. "It's sort of the way that Josephine generally operates. So he would make a little bit about how one person, one voice was in person to them, and it was a hallmark of the Alliance party, and everything else he would do." That position would promptly appear in newspaper or television reports. "So then the Tories would go, 'No, no, we absolutely resist on some sort of regional vote.' And he'd go, 'Yeah, okay, fine, I'm good with that.' And then they, again."

"So we would either leak something to hold them to it, or Stephen would find an idea that they would try and hold him to. In the end of this strategy was, they would come back and say, 'Well, I have to be that, thinking he would never accept it. Which of course he would. Because the caucus quite frankly would accept anything.'"

It doesn't follow a dozen times that it occurred. In October, the talks nearly collapsed over the toughest issue: how to choose the new

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party's leader. In the Atlantic Alliance tradition it was assumed that each party member should have a vote. That would have meant the much-larger Atlantic leadership would have chosen a leader over the objections of every single former Tory. Mackay avoided such ending to lead an equal number of delegates, so Tories could leverage their organizational edge in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec. There was deadlock. Harper suggested they take Thanksgiving weekend off. Then he leaked a memo to the media complaining of Mackay's "lack of any spirit of compromise." Mackay promptly heard from another wing of his party—the wing that included Mulroney and wanted him to do a deal—telling him to get back to the table and be serious about it this time. On Oct. 16, the two leaders announced they'd made a deal. Five years after Harper had stated about merging the parties, it was going to happen.

**FEAR FORWARDED.** NOW HARPER'S CANADA'S prime minister. His early months in power have been awkward, among many more significant accomplishments and disappointments, by an extraordinarily flippant relationship with the parliamentary press gallery. We could argue all day about who to blame for the fractious relationship between Harper and the journalists. But even though the days when he could enjoy a cozy, lousy relationship with the scribblers would seem to be over, his current behavior, like his early overtures, reveals aspects of the Harper mind.

First, he can be stubborn and vindictive. None of these are hardly unique traits. Indeed, they're almost endemic to the political leadership class, not just in Canada but anywhere. You do not win consistently over time, as a rule, unless you get out of the habit of backing down and into the habit of making your opponents hurt for the rest of crowning you.

Second, and more idiosyncratically, Harper is convinced that liberals in Canada are needed against Conservative success. That's it is no parents. Not so long ago it was the people of Ontario. After Stevie Nicks' Dry just the 1000 election, Harper wrote a barely coherent harangue for the National Post, in which he said that Ontario would always reject an Altonian and that Albertans would give up on Ontario as the rest of Canada. Within five months of that double, both Dry was the least popular politician in Alberta. In hindsight, the lesson of the 2000 election is that just this once, Ontario was a little quicker on the uptake because it was not deceived by naive-as-pie that Harper couldn't see that. He was too busy looking for someone to blame.

Finally, and most importantly, Harper is

less frequently motivated by vindictiveness and a rotten complex than his opponents would like to believe. In fact, if his first five months as prime minister were a success—and they were more than that, they were not for free a triumph—it's because he kept his darker instincts in check. No, not just in check. He overwhelmed his darker instincts with some of the finest instincts any Canadian leader has shown: a generation-strategic genius, careful planning, discipline, a

**FIVE YEARS** after he had **BEEN** suspected a party merger, Harper was in charge



**DURING HIS FIRST MONTHS AS PM HE KEPT HIS DARKER INSTINCTS IN CHECK.**

constant desire to expand his coalition and to reward voters' faith with concrete and demonstrable results.

So why did it turn a little sour near the end of that remarkable run? I believe for the same reason he blew his lead in 2004 and then slowly blew it again in 2006. He ran out of stopping.

Five priorities—taxes, justice, crime, class government, health care. All except health care, checked off by May. Two bigger themes, federalism and foreign policy. Both on the road to substantial realignment by May. A few flies hanging fire, especially environmental policy, with no progress likely before autumn. Suddenly, and probably only in part because of the 2006 election, he had no big story to tell the Canadian people. That had happened before, and he received the same way.

With less message, he became fixated on the messengers. With less momentum, he became convincing about forces road to his way. With less control, the control broke in him seemed to freak out. Fortunately for Harper none of this was a permanent state of affairs. By June he was telling people privately he

was ready, after two leadership races and two national election campaigns in less than five years, to take some serious downtime. His staff would have the summer to prepare a full agenda, complete with new writing. The agenda would be his again in the fall. But when his control and concentration had slipped, Harper had given word to impulses that had hurt him before and might yet—who knew?—bring him down.

Or not. The Conservatives still stood

strong in the polls, though still short of the majority Harper coveted. Unemployment was near record lows, the dollar near record highs. Harper had inherited that good news from the Liberals, but he'd take it, thanks very much. Except in Afghanistan, far from the concerns of most Canadians, the country faced no grave crisis. Harper had united two of Canadian conservatism's dark shires and was pursuing the third, the code with the French accent, with an ardor and a chance of conquest no one could ever have expected. His opponents were in disarray, their odds of winning only so so. He was well positioned, when he was good to know, because the way he saw things, the real work had barely begun.

The assault on the history books lay ahead. ■

From Right Side Up: The Fall of Paul Martin and the Rise of Stephen Harper's New Conservatives by Paul Wells. Available in book stores Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006. Reprinted by permission of Douglas Gibson Books, McClelland & Stewart Ltd.



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NATIONAL

## Deep in the cold, cold ground

**That's where we should put our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the Conservatives say**

**BY JOHN GEDDES** • Of the major initiatives taken so far by Stephen Harper's government, the least far aparted the most dramatic reaction, Environment Minister Jim Ambrose released it last week to critics from environmental groups and opposition politicians, pundits and political commentators: a plan for storing far off 300,000 tonnes per year of carbon dioxide from Canada's greenhouse gas emissions roughly in half. Given the urgency surrounding climate change, that does sound pretty much like a thing to do for the new future, a step that didn't seem either too marginal (wouldn't strip the screen doors of the nation) or too radical (to fly in a wind turbine in every pot).

Actually, the dot touch on a note that might have been enough to lead last week's package and help if the government had been ready to say much more about it. Of the technological advances that must come if Canada is ever going to significantly cut emissions, Ambrose specifically referred to carbon dioxide "sequestration." That's the term for taking the CO<sub>2</sub> from, say, a coal-fired generating station, and pumping it deep into the ground instead of just letting it escape there.

It only makes sense for large, industrial centers, and only where the geology is right—in it happens to be under much of Alberta. Environment groups and industry experts have been waiting for years for a big federal push on the concept. But they were not sure how to read Ambrose's signal. On the one hand, she didn't say much about it. On the other, it was the only technology she singled out when talking about working on solutions.

Her office wouldn't answer questions from Maclean's about plans for promoting sequestration. But various provisions in apparently leaked legislation, a year ago, a Calgary-based industry group was formed with large-scale sequestration as its goal—whether in Ontario and Alberta gas storage about it. Called ICDN, for Integrated CO<sub>2</sub> Network, it's made up of companies, including big players like Suncor, TransAlta, Syncrude, and Shell Canada. ICDN's plan is to collect

CO<sub>2</sub> from power plants, oil and natural gas processing facilities, and perhaps oil sands operations, and pipe it to suitable geological formations, such as deep saltwater aquifers or depleted oil and gas reservoirs. The group estimates sequestration could cut emissions by up to 20 million tonnes per year—equal to taking four million cars off the roads.

That would be by far the biggest success in what has been, up to now, a dismal Canadian record on greenhouse gases. Under the Kyoto Protocol, Ottawa promised to slash emissions to six per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-2012. Instead, emissions rose 27 per cent to 758 million tonnes by 2004. The Conservatives have shaded off the Liberal's Kyoto pledge, substituting Ambrose's goal of a 45 to 65 per cent cut from 2001 levels by 2050. Putting even that distant target doesn't seem like a big change, but it seems like the best bet to appeal to an Alberta-

**IT'S A PLAN THAT COULD HELP THE TORIERS WIN BACK CREDIBILITY ON THE GLOBAL WARMING FRONT**

based Prime Minister, since it promises to cut emissions from the oil and gas economy without putting the brakes on its rapid expansion. "Let's face it, oil sands development is big and growing and not going away," says Martin Raymond, executive director of the Petroleum Institute, a Calgary-based environmental group, which last week issued a report calling for cautious sequestration.

With industry, some environmentalists, and informed government insiders seeing the same thing, what's holding the Tories back? Probably money. Pierre Arcene, president of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, estimates the cost at \$100 to \$500 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, well above the \$25 per tonne set as a acceptable future burden on industry in talks with the former Liberal government. "They realized first after last year's election," Arcene says, "the economic consequences start-



AMBROSE, critics mocked her choice of just

getting very, very serious." Other countries' governments, however, are investing. With again a partnership in a \$600-million coal-fired generating plant from which all the carbon dioxide will be stored underground. Newey recently announced the most ambitious CO<sub>2</sub> storage scheme ever, a \$600-million project to pipe emissions back into its offshore oil fields. Canada's Conservatives should take note: spending federal cash to get sequestration going here could be the way to win back credibility on what's arguably the world's worst problem. ■

FOR THE RECORD

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MACLEANS NOV. 6/04





# Saddam: A bloody trail about to end

**Cunning and ruthlessness brought him to power. Now he is almost certain to face the death penalty. JONATHAN GATEHOUSE on the incredible, twisted and brutal career of one of the world's worst despots.**

**Saddam Hussein knows how he wants to die.** *Shahid*—died, tied to a post before a firing squad, perhaps with the stab of one lone Cuban cigar—has been his motto. The dictator of 38 million lives and Third World dreams. And a death that speaks to his deepest successes.

Iraq's fiercest dictator has always been steady about the trappings of power and privilege. Even now, on prison and courtroom dock, he and his co-defendants insist on calling each other by their former titles.

For Saddam, it's usually "Mr. President," but there are friendly dozens of other options, ranging from the grandiose bureaucratic "Chairman of the Supreme Planning Council" to the flowery "Knight of the Arab Masses." The one that seems to be most important to him these days, however, is "Field Marshal," the rank he gave himself when he officially took over the country in 1979. For despite his fondness for uniforms, medals and weapons, Saddam Hussein was never really a soldier. As a young man in the 1950s, his application to Baghdad's Military Academy was rejected because of his poor marks—weight that has muddled him all of his life, and may yet muddle him in death.

By Iraqi tradition, a quick, clean execution by gunfire is reserved only for military criminals. Ordinary thieves, rapists and murderers get the indignity of the hangman's noose. In the memoir that Saddam has been on trial—first for the execution of 144 villagers in Dujail following a 1982 assassination attempt, now for a 1984 campaign of poison gas attacks and massacres facilitated in estimated 380,000 in the Kurdish north—the former president has created the proceedings like a game. He refuses to recognize the legitimacy of the Iraqi High Tribunal, dismissing it as a court of occupiers "not worth the name of an Iraqi child." He swears and shouts at the judges,

insults and witnesses, frequently walks out, or refuses to stand at all. There have been lengthy hunger strikes, and innumerable similar acts of defiance. In one job, however, the day before his first trial ended, Saddam Hussein had a small roomers of glory. In between windy bursts of scorn for his captors, he stood before the judges who will deliver their verdict on Nov. 5—startly a death sentence—and begged for one last favor: "I ask you, being an Iraqi person, that if you reach a verdict of death, execution, remember that I am a military man and should be killed by firing squad and not by hanging as a common criminal." The teacher of Baghdad, the strongman who terrorized millions, sparked three major wars, and helped set the Middle East afire, couldn't worry. Regardless of how he dies, history will never confuse him with a common criminal.

**The lies, myths and legends start on the day of his birth.** Officially, Saddam Hussein Abd al-Majid al-Husseini was born April 28, 1935, in a mud hut in the impoverished farming village of al-Awja, near Tikrit. (In 1985, Iraq's dictator made the day a national holiday, marked each successive year by ever more elaborate parades, pageants and celebrations.) But the government of the day wasn't overly concerned about registra-

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE AP/WIDEWORLD



SADDOAN in 1969, standing in front of the microphone to announce the hanging of 14 Iraqis

made offspring? *Illiterate peasants, and the evidence suggests Saddam wasn't born that year, let alone that date. As he rose to power, he copied the day Iraqi Abul Karim al-Shaykhli, a friend and fellow Baathist he once called his twin, and whom he had shot dead in front of his pregnant wife in 1966. Saddam's birth year was backdated, probably from 1916, to lend him gravitas as he gained public stature, or to make his marriage to his first wife (and first cousin) Salha—in 1957—more socially acceptable. (It's not for an Iraqi man to marry a woman who is his cousin.)*

The tales about Saddam's early life are equally suspect. Depending on whom you believe, his father Hassan al-Majid was either dead by the time of his birth—killed by bandits, according to some versions—or had abandoned his family. Subha, his mother, was a fortune teller. During the run-up to the 2003 U.S. invasion, an Iraqi biographer, Amr al-Bayati, answered the story of a Jewish family of Iraq origin who claim they saved the life of the urban dweller. Depressed after her husband's death from cancer and the sad loss of another child to a liver disease, the heavily pregnant Salha tried to throw herself under a train, and later bent her belly against a dose. The Jewish family, friends from Tikrit, intervened on both occasions and nursed her back to health. Months later, Saddam emerged as a healthy and grew to be "both the best-looking and brightest" child in the village, they recalled.

Most sources agree that Saddam spent his first years in the care of a maternal uncle. His mother eventually found a new husband, Hassan al-Bishara, known locally as "Hassan the liar" for having once falsely claimed to have made the pilgrimage to Mecca. Saddam returned to live with them, but even by his own admission those were not happy times.

SOME mothers liked him, but one expert posits that Saddam never got enough love from his own flesh and blood.

When Iraq's civil war broke out, Saddam's father was killed. Other books speculated that Saddam's early life was the young Saddam used to fight the Turks with dynamite. And once he became Iraq's strongman, Saddam wasn't averse to spreading legends about his own prowess. In 1969, he wrote an official biography—which was once mandatory reading for government officials—the claims to have received his first pistol at the age of 10, and to have used it shortly thereafter in a failed attempt to get even with a teacher who had beaten him at school.

At 11, Saddam moved to Baghdad to live with his uncle Khairallah Talfan, and continue his education. Khairallah, a strong Iraqi nationalist and former army officer, was the biggest influence on Saddam's formative years. The bond only strengthened after an Iraqi-Syrian daughter, 10 years old after joining a failed uprising, ended up kicking British troops out of the country and inviting the Germans to take their place. (Khairallah's next sympathies ran deep: In the early 1960s Saddam published one of his uncle's accounts as a tribute. It was entitled *Three Whom God Should Not Have Created: Persians, Jews and Poles*.) The picture of the future dictator's teenage years is murky. He went to high school

after classes—or so some fre-

quently dubious rumors—of a meeting at the meeting in Saddam's house. A Political Biography, authored by Rafi al-Rawi, an exiled Iraqi, says that the future dictator used to hire many child laborers by beating them into a fire and

**"I am a military person and should be killed by firing squad, and not by hanging as a common criminal"**



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had forged his friendships with almost everyone who counted and was tipped as a rising star. In 1968, the Baathists staged another genocide, led by Gen. Ahmed Hassan of Baal, a fellow Tikriti and long-time partner of Saddam and his uncle. Saddam proved himself as Baal's chief of internal security, ordering party discipline and setting terms with panache. Soon he was the weak-willed president's right-hand man, controlling most aspects of Iraqi life.

All that was missing was the genocide and the tide, and they came soon enough. But by Iraq's bloody standards, Saddam's 1979 power grab—inspired at an videotape and later broadcast to the nation—was G-rated. All the violence was off screen. In mid-July, Baal announced that he was "suffering" from health reasons, and handing power over to his trusted deputy, the man best qualified to ensure the leadership. "Saddam had already installed himself as all of the government's key positions. He had firm control of the growing state security apparatus. The military was being placed with a massive weapons buildup, financed by Iraqi-polluted profits that were reaching government coffers in the wake of 1982's oil embargo year 1983, Saddam was taking no chances. He convened a special party conference and in one fell swoop declared all his senior critics and rivals.

Eyes filling with tears, his voice shaking with emotion, he stood before his colleagues and announced that he had uncovered a Syrian-Baathist attempt to overthrow the party, and that all the plotters were in the room. Throwing a piece of paper from his pocket, Saddam read out 64 names. As the surviving party members applauded and screamed Saddam's name, the names were handed over. After rapid reads, 22 (including all the highest-ranking party members) were sentenced to death, 35 were sent to prison. As a rule of loyalty, the remaining members of the Baath leadership were ordered to personally carry out the execution under the watchful eyes of the Mukhabarat, Saddam's secret police.

Even those exiled—or perceived—who had fled the country weren't safe from Saddam's bloodthirsty ambition. In 1976, Abdul Razzak Karim, a former prime minister, was shot in the head as he left London's international hotel. Iraqi soldiers carried two members of the Iraqi intelligence for the crime, known as Saddam's dyspepsia. That same year, Abdul Illah, the Iraq oil-field leader, was strangled with his wife and fled to death at his Sunny Home. (He survived and became a key U.S. ally, later serving as the country's interim prime minister after the 2003 invasion that toppled Saddam.)

During his years as the power behind the throne, Saddam had become the architect of



ALL IN THE FAMILY? Saddam with his wife, Sajida (center), son Uday (middle), and others

one of the world's most repressive regimes. And what little Saddam was left in Iraq disappeared once he took over the top job. The ranks of the army, police and Baath party militia swelled. A deal was struck with Yem Andropov, then head of the Soviet KGB, to help improve surveillance techniques. In being devised became what is ubiquitous aerial bugs. In the late 1980s, a senior army officer who made a daring comment about Saddam's respect for the privacy of his nation's bedrooms was arrested, and had his tongue cut out before being executed. His son sat out the same fate, and all the family horses were killed.

As Kanan Makiya wrote in his influential *Republic of Fear* (a scathing critique of Iraqi ideology and thought that was adopted as gospel by the neo-con hawks of the Bush administration),

giving a voice to the 1990s, constructing AIDS became grounds for summary execution.

Over the years, human rights organizations noted dozens of demonstrations of the retributive control, denying independent writers, political activists, freedom of religion, and thousands of "disappearances." In February 1989, Amnesty International released a report entitled "Children: Innocent Victims of Political Repression." It presented cases of Iraqi soldiers who had been apprehended, lined up and then taken away to be "public," political prisoners who were forced to watch relatives, including children, being tortured until they confessed and obeyed and with whom they were kept in secret cells and "deliberately deprived of light" until they cracked. Calling Saddam's violence of hangings "Rage and repressive." Anyway said it could

and he was arrested and taken to the presidential compound. Given a pair of blood-soaked gloves to wear, he was blindfolded and placed in a cell for days and fed only bread and water. Eventually he was taken to the "open room zone." Guards hung him from the ceiling by his feet and whipped his body with leaded cable. Afterward, he lay bleeding on the ground, still able to peek beneath his blindfold. "All around him he saw other prisoners being tortured by teams of Saddam's torturers," writes Coughlin. "In one corner he saw a man being lowered into a vat of boiling water. In another, a victim was being tortured with electric shocks to his genitals. Yet another victim was strapped to a table in the center of the room, while the guards were extracting his teeth and fingernails." (Saddam eventually escaped from jail, and the country after his halfhearted senior security officials.)

Saddam was not alone getting his own hands dirty. In the summer of 1982, at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, it was announced that Riyadh Dabbas Hussein, the minister of health, had been executed, purportedly for selling tampered medicine on the black market. But a more sinister story quickly became the accepted truth. During a cabinet meeting, the minister had the temerity to suggest that Saddam should stay out of a peace deal that could be negotiated. Saddam asked him to step out of the room so the two of them could further discuss the proposal. The president returned alone. Hussein's wife later told Saddam, and married a person that he had been told to remain to her. The next day, handmaiden delivered the body—chopped to pieces—in a black cement bag. Saddam never showed any more from brutality.

the pain he was meted out to the presidential compound. Given a pair of blood-soaked gloves to wear, he was blindfolded and placed in a cell for days and fed only bread and water. Eventually he was taken to the "open room zone." Guards hung him from the ceiling by his feet and whipped his body with leaded cable. Afterward, he lay bleeding on the ground, still able to peek beneath his blindfold. "All around him he saw other prisoners being tortured by teams of Saddam's torturers," writes Coughlin. "In one corner he saw a man being lowered into a vat of boiling water. In another, a victim was being tortured with electric shocks to his genitals. Yet another victim was strapped to a table in the center of the room, while the guards were extracting his teeth and fingernails." (Saddam eventually escaped from jail, and the country after his halfhearted senior security officials.)

In an infamous interview with ABC's Diane Sawyer in 1990, Saddam was asked about the draconian measures he used to keep his public in line. "Does not the law in your country punish whoever tries to insult the president?" he responded. When Sawyer told him that the answer was "no," and that half the U.S. would be in jail if the government adopted the Iraqi model, Saddam looked stunned. "Well," he huffed, "in Iraq the president is regarded by the people as a symbol representing something."

**Saddam has money issues.** At least that's what the U.S. government firmly believes. For 21 years, Dr. David Pass, a Washington psychiatrist, prepared secret psychological profiles of world leaders for the Central Intelligence Agency. His glowing assessments were slushes of Munchausen-Begin—"a delusional person" and "a narcissist" in his private person—"the reportedly provided Jimmy Carter with the insight he needed to climb the Israeli-Egyptian Camp David accord.) The exact content of his advice on how to handle Saddam remains classified, but a public version of the doctor's analysis of the Iraqi dictator's personality has been an obsession since the early

1960s. After the great Iraq conquests, Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king who enslaved the Jews in 586 BCE, and Suleiman, the Ottoman who defied the Crusades and liberated Jerusalem in 1492. They were men of action, capable of both acts of ungenial cruelty and moments of great generosity. So is Saddam. He "has a flexible conscience, commitments and loyalty are matters of circumstance, and circumstances change," says the psychiatrist. "Nothing was permitted to restrain the great conqueror's megalomaniac."

In execution over the years, Pass has handed about other 50-year terms for the rest of Saddam's core, like "unstable narcissism," but it all comes back to Saddam's lack of restraint. "Does that deep that you can't really measure from," the doctor said the London Times in 2003. "A lot of total control of the environment is designed to compensate for his being totally out of control. A lot of the solution he seeks is to compensate for the missing, the missing, 'never missed'."

Whatever the explanation, there is no debate that Saddam has an over-the-top appetite for attention. During his regime, a favored Iraq job was that the country's population had recently hit 28 million—in official pos-

## By the mid-1980s, Iraq had two dozen offences with the death penalty. Getting AIDS was one of them.



BAATHIST REVENGE: A NEW UP TO 50 YEARS ON TRIAL, AND THE SIGHTLY SAYS THERE WAS NO PROBLEM

tion, by 1988 one fifth of the country's labor force "were constitutionally charged during peacetime with one form or another of violence." By the middle of the decade, there were two dozen offences that carried the death penalty in Iraq. Documenting any sort of state or government information to foreigners was considered a capital offense, as was "propa-



BAATHIST REVENGE: A NEW UP TO 50 YEARS ON TRIAL, AND THE SIGHTLY SAYS THERE WAS NO PROBLEM

ganda of an other regime "which relies on mass propaganda for its maintenance and action." In his 2002 book *Saddam: The Devil's Deal*, British journalist Coughlin calls the case of Saad Salih, a trained Saddamist commander who was Iraq's longest-serving top military officer, as a case of "summary execution." Westerners brought him under suspicion,



BAATHIST REVENGE: A NEW UP TO 50 YEARS ON TRIAL, AND THE SIGHTLY SAYS THERE WAS NO PROBLEM

writing it as a necessary part of a tyrant's job. During his reign, government officials frequently used Western journalists and businessmen to outrageous scenes of their host's barbarism, conspicuously feeding the legend. Public speeches were filled with vainglorious and promises of retribution for enemies at home and abroad. All of Iraq knew the cost of crossing Saddam, and when



BAATHIST REVENGE: A NEW UP TO 50 YEARS ON TRIAL, AND THE SIGHTLY SAYS THERE WAS NO PROBLEM

1990s. The rest of Saddam's behavior is his unhappy childhood, a formative period that inspired his capacity for empathy, creating a "wounded self" notes Pass. "One course in the face of such traumatizing experiences is to seek rage, despotism, and hopelessness. The another is to seek a psychological triumph of compensatory grandiosity." Consequently, for his entire life, Saddam has put



BAATHIST REVENGE: A NEW UP TO 50 YEARS ON TRIAL, AND THE SIGHTLY SAYS THERE WAS NO PROBLEM

emphasis on the "wonderfully failed" May Special Program Implementation Authority (a war-charged war department and administration) in Baghdad. Saddam's childhood had his parents on the cover, and a collection of his sayings on the back. And there was never a question of whose photo would be on the front page of the daily paper. Radio overtook his name 30 to 50 times an hour. The



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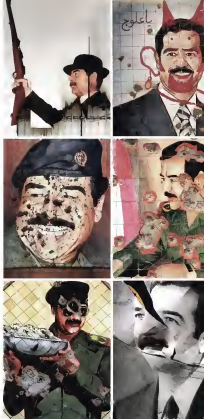
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most comprehensive national campaign to crowd out illiteracy. The government established 1,779 adult learning centres and more than two million people were taught to read and write over a 20-month period. [Some critics, like Makky, suggest that Saddam's real goal was to create sleeper soldiers for his anti-partisan propaganda.]

For many, Iraq's voice of the heartless bay outside the monster trade uncomfortably close to an egotist, but there are moments when it resonates. One of Saddam's more curious habits as president was his impromptu visits to communicate with the people. Saddam and his security entourage would suddenly descend on your family barbecue, or show up at the door in local costume, always eager to hear just how fantastic a job the great leader was doing. In his discussion of the U.S. invasion and occupation, *The Assassin's Gate*, George Packer tells the story of a family from Kirkuk, who were favoured with a visit in 1983. One afternoon, two presidential helicopters landed in a nearby field, tanks crowded off their street, and a trailer was parked in their garden. Saddam, dressed in an olive army uniform, appeared in their door. He came inside to sit in the living room and make chit chat for a while, before setting up shop in the study. Neighbours were instructed to line up in the garden for a private audience with the president—an opportunity to petition for favours—and everyone who did so was given a present of 1,000 dinars. The next morning, the whole show moved on. It was like a dream, the family said. The only proof that it had ever happened was the lingering odour of Saddam's cologne, a scent so powerful that they eventually had to give away the silk he had set upon.

It's a picture that Donald Rumsfeld undoubtedly wishes had never been taken. The December 2003 snapshot shows the current U.S. secretary of defence, then president Ronald Reagan's special envoy, grinning and shaking the outstretched hand of the man he has, of late, so often compared to Hitler: Tariq Aziz.

In early 2002, Reagan had Iraq removed from a U.S. State Department list of nations supporting terrorism that had been compiled by his predecessor, Jimmy Carter. Since the beginning of the 1970s, Iraq's Baathist regime had maintained a close relationship with some of the more militant members of the Palestinian liberation movement. It was a major source of funds, and training, for the PLO. Abu Nidal, whose faction was responsible for dozens of high-profile terror incidents including embassy takeovers, hijackings, bombings, and attacks on Jewish schools and synagogues in Europe, used Baghdad as his



**HOW THE MIGHTY FALL:** Defiant portraits of the former strongman. Since his capture, Saddam's home has been a three-by-four-meter cell. But he does some gardening.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY TONY COOPER/REUTERS. EXCEPT TOP RIGHT: SHUTTER RELEASE/AGENCY

his first number of years. He was not alone. The Kurdish 700,000 in Iraq as a refuge, and old Syria's outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, and for a period in the early 1990s, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini.

Reagan's decision was strategic. The Iranian mullahs, initially taken by surprise by the 1980 Iraqi invasion, had rallied, and looked like they might be winning the war in the summer of 1982. The U.S. began to provide the Iraqis with satellite photos of Iranian lines, and their own defense capabilities. In 1984, the operation was expanded to "limited intelligence sharing," including communications intercepts, data on strategic bombing targets and enemy troop positions. And U.S. hatred of Khomeini made, there was a need to replace the oil that went to fund the Shah's line. In 1981, the U.S. had not imported a single barrel of oil from Iraq. By 1988, it was consuming 136 million barrels annually. (At the time, Saddam gave American petroleum refiners a 10 percent discount on world prices.)

Reagan was hardly alone in throwing his lot in with Saddam. (Although he was probably the only world leader to give the dictator a pair of gold spurs as a gift, hand-delivered by Kamal al-Din [The Sonar, who had been the Bushmen's major supplier of arms and technology since the beginning of the 1970s, had been gradually replaced by the Europeans. By 1982, Iraq accounted for 40 per cent of all French arms exports—guns, missiles, Mirage fighter jets—a relationship that proved the French more than \$100 billion during the course of the invasion. The Iraqis were also supplying weapons. And the Germans were clearing up an construction contracts and exports of industrial equipment—much of it with "dual-use" military uses.)

It was not a secret that Saddam's regime had been given nearly everything: modern, biological and chemical weapons technology since 1970. Saddam himself had publicly boasted about the seed for "an Arab bomb" as a matter of operations. In 1975, he inked a \$1.6-billion reactor deal with France (According to Coughlin, the agreement, which also provided for the training of 600 technicians, had a provision "that all persons of the Jewish race and the Moslem religion" be excluded from participating.) Four years later, Saddam struck a deal with the Italians to build him for plutonium enrichment. There were allegations of secret nuclear support deals with Israel, China and India. (Israel became so alarmed about these developments that it first dispatched agents to subvert the reactor core as they were being built in France, and in June 1983, staged a failed bombing raid that destroyed Saddam's newly completed Osirak nuclear plant.)

## Saddam viewed brutality as a necessary part of a tyrant's job. His crimes became bigger and bolder.



AN ESTIMATED 180,000 Kurds were massacred by the regime.

The Baathist regime had also sought out Western technology and expertise for two massive new chemical plants, purportedly designed to produce pesticides, but with a worrying focus on highly toxic compounds—aminox, parathion, and phosphorothionates—that could easily be converted to nerve gas. In addition, the Iraqi government had become a major purchaser of bacterial and fungal cultures (mostly from West Germany and the U.S.) for killer diseases like anthrax, typhoid and cholera. The Iraqis claimed they were trying to develop vaccines, but many questioned why they would go to such trouble and expense when treatments were widely available on the international market.

The first bombings that Iraq was using poison gas against Iranian troops were heard in late 1984. By the spring of 1984, there was no doubt. That March, a team of UN experts concluded that the Iraqis had used mustard gas and the nerve agent sarin in an all-out effort to make the Majnoon Islands—two offshore reefs of land near Basra (The UN would go on to document three other gas attacks between 1985 and 1987). There were international protests, but few real consequences for Saddam. That fall, the U.S. restored full diplomatic relations. The granting of export licenses for American companies seeking to export "dual-use" technology (i.e., crystal for radar that could also be used for radar-guided war systems, or sophisticated computers that might end up as weapons labels) was stream-lined. Iraq also became a major beneficiary

of a U.S. program that financed agricultural exports—freely purchased back loans to the Iraqi government that were used to purchase American products. Between 1983 and 1990, Iraq received \$1.5 billion in such protected loans, one sixth of the world's total. Saddam ended up defaulting on \$1.9 billion worth.

There were hints to the U.S. support. An arms embargo against Iraq remained in place—although there were reports that American public helicopters, supposedly for civilian use, ended up being used in military campaigns, including poison gas attacks against the Kurds. And the Reagan administration wasn't all verse to playing both sides of the street. In 1985, it approved the sale of TOW anti-tank missiles and aircraft

spare parts to Iran in a quietly unsuccessful effort to secure the release of 10 American held hostages in Beirut. (In return, Iran agreed to capitulate, and security all over Col. Oliver North diverted profits from the deal to the Contras in Nicaragua.) But for the most part, Iraq received the U.S.'s best of choices.

Saddam's cousin, meanwhile, became bigger and bolder. In late 1980, he began a six-year degrading campaign in the north, expelling thousands of Kurds and forcing their homes. In the winter of 1988, he launched his al-Anfal campaign to crush a Kurdish revolt in the north—the genocidal massacres for which he is currently on trial. On March 16, the Iraqi air force bombed Halabja, an agricultural center, with mustard gas and nerve agents. The few survivors recall great clouds of garlic-colored yellow flames spreading over the city. More than 10,000—men, women, children—died. After signing a ceasefire with Iran that August, Saddam's forces supported their efforts, blocking escape routes and launching chemical attacks on 10 northern villages. Troops were sent to crush all of the survivors.

Again there was outrage, but little real action. The U.S. Senate passed the Prohibition of Chemical Arms, calling for tough new sanctions against the regime, but the Reagan White House killed the bill, choosing instead to sponsor a UN Security Council resolution that called for harsh words, but little else. When George Bush the elder took office, he made improving relations with Iraq one of his



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## Points Fuel Purchasing Power



*Earn them, swap them, spend them: Reward miles and points add up to valuable currency in the pockets of savvy collectors, with the travel rewards industry pegged at \$15 billion in North America and Europe alone.*

There's a powerful kind of international currency burning a hole in travellers' wallets – and it's not lire, dollars, francs or even yen. The total stock of unredeemed travel miles is worth more than all the US dollar bills in circulation: The Economist magazine estimated last year. And although the fine print of most programs prohibits selling or bartering miles on the open market, agreements between program sponsors have led to a rise of controlled exchanges and strategic partnerships between branded rewards programs to swap benefits.

"Consumers are starting to get to the stage where they recognize these points and miles really are assets," says Rob MacLean, CEO of Points International Ltd., operator of the Points.com site, which bills itself as a "reward-program management portal." Since a typical Canadian holds six or seven loyalty program cards – slightly fewer than the average American, says MacLean – the service can make organizing the rewards wallet a lot easier.

At Points.com, members swap rewards between loyalty programs, redeem points and miles for gift cards from hundreds of retailers, top-up by purchasing more points and share miles and points with others. Registration is free.

"Every customer values these points differently," says MacLean. "The program that can get you to the reward you want – that's the program for you."

### More flexible programs

For many travellers, the most valued choice of one-stop reward program includes the flexibility to redeem points for many different needs.

While the cornerstone of loyalty programs for the past 15 years has been points in exchange for airline

### REWARDS TO BUILD ON: Strong but flexible

As the trend continues toward multiple redemption possibilities, reward card sponsors are certainly not diluting their offers. The RBC Platinum Avion card, for example, offers attractive airline rewards – you earn a point for every dollar you spend and you can redeem them on any airline with no blackout periods and no rewards seat capacity restrictions.

But you can also redeem for other travel rewards through Carlson Wagonlit Travel, or for merchandise, gift certificates or vouchers that you can deposit, as cash, into one of the RBC family of RRSPs or RESPs.

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may be as high as \$400, so it's fairly easy to do the math on how quickly it can pay for itself. Affiliations with other travel suppliers often mean collectors usually can swap or top-up points and miles with other frequent flyer and guest programs.

American Express has two leading platinum cards on the market: one earns 1.5 Membership Rewards points for every dollar spent, the other accumulates 1.25 Aeroplan miles for each dollar for the first \$25,000 spent and 1.5 miles for every dollar thereafter — among the most generous in the marketplace.

"Their points ramp up very quickly in this kind of accelerated earnings product," says Lue-Atkinson who says that Amex's high-spending customers typically charge \$25,000 or more on their card in a year. And since the Platinum Membership Rewards card automatically gives holders the privileges of Gold Preferred membership in the Starwood Preferred Guest program, consumers get even more than they could bargain for on their own.

"They understand that they can leverage this spending into points or perks... it becomes purchasing power for them that really translates into tangible value," says Lue-Atkinson.

tickets the last five years has seen a trend toward redeeming points to pay for their entire trip, says Donna Lue-Atkinson, director of marketing with Amex Bank of Canada in Markham. The company offers a selection of credit cards affiliated with loyalty programs from Amex's own Membership Rewards to co-branded cards with Aeroplan and Air Miles, among others.

Collectors are looking at the relevancy of their rewards program, says Lue-Atkinson. "They're looking beyond the air ticket to ask how else can I pay for my trip using my points?" Often, she says, points are being redeemed for hotel accommodations, car rentals even entire vacation packages.

The Holy Grail of rewards programs are those affiliated with platinum-branded credit cards that allow holders to earn points or miles at an accelerated rate for every dollar charged. Annual membership fees

## Livin' large in the lounge

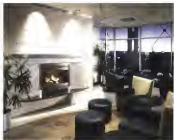
*Clubbing, airport-lounge style, brings the good life back to air travel*

The first class airline lounge may well be the last best travel perk: a gracious pre-boarding sanctuary where you can relax and recoup from the indignities of tightened airport security.

It used to be that only holders of first- or business-class tickets could gain entry into the inner sanctum of the luxurious airport lounge.

But today — even if you count yourself among the weary huddled masses who fly economy — you too can cross the threshold into the cushy jet-set world if you hold the right rewards toy.

One way through the door is



## NEWS AND HOT OFFERS

## Rack up rewards and track member benefits

- The most generous reward offers are summarized online at [Rewardscanada.ca](http://Rewardscanada.ca). Compiled by Calgary-based editor Patrick Sojka, recent top picks include triple Aeroplan miles earned on flights between Canada and London until Dec. 15, 2006, and triple Starpoints for reserving online at select Starwood properties nationwide.
- Members of Marriott Rewards can now see an instant tally of their earned promotional points through a new Promotion Tracker feature on [MarriottRewards.com](http://MarriottRewards.com). Collectors see a calculation of the number of stays or nights needed to reach rewards goals.
- Starwood's Larker in the Lobby columnist on its new [TheLobby.com](http://TheLobby.com) blog recently highlighted regional differences in welcome amenities offered to Starwood Preferred Guest Platinum members. Check into a Wilson in North America, for instance, and you'll get a choice of 500 Starpoints, beer and pretzels, a free movie or a \$10 member voucher. In Latin America, the offering is 500 Starpoints, a bottle of wine, a cheese plate or assorted chocolates.
- Choice Hotels International has reprised its "Stay Twice" promotion this fall, in which guests earn a free night's lodging at over 1,000 hotels after two separate stays at any Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality Inn, Sleep Inn, Clarion or MainStay Suites in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico. To participate, guests must sign up for the Choice Privileges rewards program. The offer runs until Dec. 15, 2006.
- Hilton Hotels Asia has expanded and revamped its first-class membership program throughout Asia. Called the Hilton Premium Club, members enjoy a variety of benefits and privileges including unlimited complimentary dining at any of the participating hotel restaurants when accompanied by a paying guest.
- Best Western International has debuted one-stop shopping at [Bestwestern.com](http://Bestwestern.com), where guests can now book hotels, flights and rental cars as well as event tickets and sightseeing tours organized by Viator. The program offers more than 4,500 vacation packages ranging from tickets to Broadway's Phantom of the Opera to a Sumo wrestling tournament in Tokyo.
- New partnerships announced as Aeroplan elite members can now accumulate or redeem points on everything from insurance products to satellite radio subscriptions. The program has recently added ING Canada, Sun Life Financial, XM Canada Satellite Radio, Swiss and South African Airways and Le Meridien Hotels and Resorts to its roster.
- Small business owners and entrepreneurs in Alberta's agricultural sector are being wooed by two new credit card products launched by ATB Financial: The Alberta Gold Rewards BusinessCard MasterCard and the Alberta Gold Ag Rewards BusinessCard MasterCard reward customers with 1.5 points for every \$1 spent on purchases. These can be redeemed for unique rewards such as a Honda ATV, an Oregon Scientific Weather Station or QuitoAir flight coupons.
- Thrifty Car Rental is doubling up credits offered to Blue Chip Rewards members and Nov. 15, 2006, for booking reservations on [Thrifty.com](http://Thrifty.com). The promotion awards members with two credits for each rental day – 16 credits earn you a free day.

with a premium credit card since membership does indeed have its privileges for holders of American Express Platinum Card among others. Amex's Airport Club Program provides the perk of complimentary access to Continental Airlines Presidents Club lounges, Northwest Airlines WorldClubs lounges and Delta Crown Room Club lounges in major Canadian cities and around the world.

Aeroplan members of all status levels can buy into Air Canada's Maple Leaf Club program to gain access to the airline's network of national and international lounges at a cost of \$399 annually. So long as you hold a ticket for an Air Canada or allied flight, you can enjoy perks like wireless Internet access, complimentary beverages and business amenities in a private setting.

Taking another route in the door, a growing number of savvy global travellers – 1.5 million and counting – are discovering the benefits of joining an independent lounge access program called Priority Pass.

"This is different from the airline programs where you have to have flown with them to access their lounges," says Jennifer Archer, marketing director for Priority Pass ([Prioritypass.com](http://Prioritypass.com)) in Plano, Tex., which operates what's billed as the world's largest independent VIP airport lounge access program.



If you're an RBC Avion® cardholder, a Boeing 777 has this many seats available on points.

To see how many it has when you've got another travel rewards card, simply fold a) to b).



# BEAUTIFUL LOSER

Is Paul Reichmann on a comeback, or does he just want us to think so?

**BY JASON KIRBY** • Many men who find themselves boxed in at a corner will pick up a hobby. Paul Reichmann decided to launch a US\$4-billion investment company. Last month, less than two years after he supposedly walked away from the business, the 76-year-old patriarch of Canada's most prominent real estate clan announced the formation of that new company, PRC Capital. Come spring, the company will move from Toronto to London to Luxembourg. On Bay Street, anticipation is palpable and rumours are flying about just what the great chairman of Canadianised finance has planned. As the *Financial Times* put it recently, "The Canadian tycoon is back."

But if there's one thing the world has learned when it comes to Paul Reichmann, it's that things aren't always as they appear. For one thing, he has really suffered only one collapse, but reports of his demise or resurgence are an almost constant event. Over the past three years, the real estate developer has been tied to a series of high-profile deals. Each time he failed in his stated goal, but walked away millions of dollars richer. Maybe Reichmann was destined to be reinvented for this story, but the question is worth asking: has the man lost his touch? Or has he figured out how to profit from failure like nobody else in the world of high-stakes real estate?

With his aspidochelone hair and strongly bearded, he was long said that Reichmann's world was golden and his headbabe as good as any aged contract. Through the 1970s and '80s Paul, along with his brothers-in-law Albert and Ralph, grew his investments from Australia, built an empire through his company, Olympia & York Developments, that included Toronto's most prominent tower, First Canadian Place, and the World Financial Center in New York. As they ventured into the British market with the Canary Wharf office tower project in London's Docklands, it was Paul's dream and chutzpah that con-



REICHMANN is still widely revered as one of the shrewdest investors in Canadian business.

vinced bankers to keep lending O&Y cash, even as its debt level ballooned.

In the early 1990s, as the valuations grew and around Canary Wharf, Paul converted many of his O&Ys into sold ground. Rank up with the world's richest people, used to pocket larger sums next to the Reichmanns since—1991, *Forbes* pegged the family's

**RUMOURS ARE FLYING ON BAY ST. ABOUT WHAT THE GREAT OLD MAN OF REAL ESTATE HAS UP HIS SLEEVE**

networth at US\$7 billion. *Forbes* US\$11.8 billion. The Tower in London, US\$15.6 billion. But when the bankers finally turned the screw, O&Y collapsed under the weight of a US\$120 billion debt, and the Reichmanns empire, and *Forbes*, ceased to go with it.

Without money to double himself, Reichmann vowed to rebound. "I fully expect to

work on two or three more projects as big as Canary Wharf in my life," he told one reporter in 1991. Two years later, he was back in charge at Canary Wharf. He'd made a big new batch of investors, including a wealthy Saudi prince, and reacquired the project from his creditors. In late 1993, the development was a runaway success, and Reichmann went on to meet Latin America's richest man in Mexico City, while assembling a stable of waterfront home properties across North America, which he took public in the late 1990s. There's a reason people use fiery tale terms like *Cinderella* Man when they describe him.

But more money Reichmann has had to get used to being on the living end of business actions. At least, that's how it appears. In his lawsuit, in 2003, the board of directors at Canary Wharf called out his leaders to take the company private after having approached with takeover offers. A fortress is crumbling.

ding now followed. In one corner was banking giant Morgan Stanley. In the other, Toronto-based Brunco (now called Brookfield Asset Management). Though all Reichmann asked the financiers, threatening to snuff the race. He never really did, showing his weight behind the Brunco bid. An official counter-bid showed the final price higher, Reichmann's 6.5 per cent stake soared in value.

Morgan Stanley was set in 2004 with a US\$1 billion offer. Reichmann stepped down from the Canary Wharf board and sold his stake to Brunco for more than US\$100 million. Far from cooling the end of his tenure as his beloved project, though, he retained millions of warrants, giving him the option to buy back in later. By some estimates, Reichmann now controls between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of Canary Wharf—more than he did before the bidding war.

Last year, he set his sights on O&Y Properties—the company formed by Reichmann's nephew Philip Reichmann and son-in-law Frank Hauer in the wake of Olympia & York's collapse in the 1990s. In early 2005, Brunco again came out as bidder. Brunco's own reports suggested Paul Reichmann had teamed up with Toronto banker Gerry Schwartz for a rival bid. In the end, Brunco paid top dollar for the buildings. The much-sought-after owner offers from Reichmann and Schwartz never did materialize, but the same suggestion undoubtedly drove up the price.

Finally, last month Reichmann enjoyed yet another round of "comeback" morris after he bid to buy a company called Renaissance Real Estate Investments Trust. For nearly a year, speculation has mounted that Reichmann, who owns 22 per cent of the trust's units, planned a takeover. His resignation from the company's board of trustees in July amplified the rumours. In late September, his own company, PRC Capital, said it would bid for the company. For only days later the Public Sector Pension Investment Board, which manages retirement funds for federal and provincial governments, was on hand, which Reichmann's Renaissance rejected. Reichmann, it seemed, had lost again.

Except one more really bothered Reichmann's bottom screen. Shari Polakoff, a real estate analyst with Canaccord Adams in Toronto, said Reichmann's offer came with too many conditions and, arguably, too little capital. PRC Capital said it was not alone. "What is happening here is an abuse of his ability to buy [Renaissance Real Estate]," it's his availability of financing," says Polakoff. "That's always been his main issue. Where does he get the money? Because he doesn't have it himself." But by bidding, Reichmann flunked out a mere weeks after from the pension fund and Reichmann has yet to announce whether

he'll fire back with a counter bid, which could spark a bidding war and drive up the value of his holdings even more.

Some believe Reichmann is cycling a repeat performance. Last month, the septuagenarian business icon resigned from the board of UIC US Real Estate Investments.

## EACH TIME THAT HE'S FAILED IN HIS STATED GOAL, HE HAS WALKED AWAY MILLIONS RICHER ANYWAY

Trust. That triggered a fresh round of rumours that Reichmann, who already owns a stake, is preparing to mount a takeover of the property manager. It could be yet another attempt to flush out a prospective buyer to take control of his hands at a premium price. In September, he sold a portfolio of nearly 70 retirement properties to a U.S. health care company for US\$650 million. Is



LANDMARKS: CANARY WHARF AND THE WORLD FINANCIAL PLACE

this the money that will go to fund the new investment firm and another huge project? With Reichmann, there are always more questions than answers.

That's especially true when it comes to the state of his retirement. Those who know him—what is a small, right-angled and deeply loyal group—were surprised that Reichmann couldn't settle into a quiet retirement. "Paul is making a big assumption that he will retire in the first

place," says one executive who has worked closely with him. But they also know it won't be easy, given his age. "The popular phrase these days is to leave a legacy and that's probably part of it," says one corporate director who has run into bumps with Reichmann. "It would be easy to say that if you achieve your point blank, 'I'm going to make a serious come back,' anywhere would be, probably not."

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# MACLEAN'S



# TRYING TO CATCH A FALLING STAR

**The Toronto Star's  
shake-up is a sign of  
troubled times**

**BY STEVE MACKIN** • There will be no honeymoon for the new team that inherited last week atop Canada's largest newspaper. Just four days after Torstar Corp. appointed them to take over operations of the Toronto Star, new publisher Jagdeep Pila and editor-in-chief Fred Keefe received a stern reminder from Ray Stene about just how heavily stacked the odds are against them.

Last Friday, Merrill Lynch media analyst Joel Sutherland put out a research report recommending clients sell the company's stock—a particularly harsh move, given it was his first report on Torstar, and brokerage firms seldom ever initiate coverage with a sell recommendation. His 30-page report outlined a host of challenges, problems and risks facing one of the most powerful media businesses in the country. Torstar's stock has dropped 18 per cent this year, but Sutherland left no doubt that he thinks it lies further to fall.

Simply put, all of Torstar's financial indicators are heading in the wrong direction, and result in its core newspaper operations are at the heart of the problems. Advertising income has been declining at a rate of 7.1 per cent per year since 2000. Operating costs in the newspaper division have risen by 21 per cent, or \$155 million, over the same period. Sutherland projects net profits will decline by almost half over the next five years.

The Star's readership has been declining by almost five per cent a year since 2000, a steeper decline than other major newspapers, but a significant drop nevertheless. Over that period, the Star's readership market share in the Toronto area has slipped from 43 per cent to 37 per cent, due mostly to the arrival of free daily commuter papers.

It amounts to a daunting challenge on two

fronts: Pila and Keefe will be asked to halt the readership decline while simultaneously raising income. So far, Torstar has done only modest cost-cutting—a four per cent trim in the Harlequin book publishing division aimed at saving \$3 million a year, and a cut of 70 jobs from its call centres this past summer. But it has become obvious that nothing will be fixed at this rate until the fundamental challenges facing the flagship are addressed, and revenues are losing touch. Two major agencies recently downgraded the company's credit rating on concerns about mounting debt and declining earnings. The Merrill report was seen as yet another warning of serious problems, since the brokerage has put "sell" ratings on only about seven per cent of the companies it follows.

All of this goes a long way to explaining

## ALL TORSTAR'S FINANCIAL TRENDS ARE HEADING THE WRONG WAY, AND BAY STREET IS LOSING FAITH

chief executive Bob Michael's decision to insert a new team at the Star. Co-editor Gale Chiswick and disposed publisher Michael Goldblum failed to turn the tide. And even if Pila and Keefe can do better, Sutherland points to several variables that could derail them, starting with the economy. Any unforeseen downturn could worsen Torstar's already tenuous financial position. Then there's the cost of newspaper, which management can't control, and the company's pension fund, which has liabilities that could eat significantly into future profits.

But the biggest wild card may be the staff. Torstar's journalists are widely considered, as are workers in an Ontario printing operation. Naturally, those employees will oppose plans to drastically cut costs. The Star's new-union team has already expressed concern that the new leadership's main objective is to slash and burn.

Beyond all that, though, everything looks fine. Welcome to the job, Mr. Pila and Mr. Keefe. Nobody said it would be easy. ■

When in doubt  
this holiday  
season,  
VQA



### NAIL-GUN-TOTING ROOPER IS ON THE BALL

August Vogel, 58, an Alachua roofer, was hard at work last week, carrying a compressed-air nail gun. But when he suddenly slipped on a nail, Vogel accidentally fired a four-inch nail through one of his testicles. It not only lacerated the organ, but lodged it securely to the roof, requiring emergency assistance to separate him from the nail before shifting him to hospital. Vogel is recovering following surgery.

do you VQA.ca

She pokes at her food.

"Mom, I'm not hungry."

making meals of lettuce leaves.

water, then sips.

## "I NEVER SEE MY DAUGHTER EAT"

Her face looks too thin.

her lips.

then I find her breakfast

hidden in a napkin

under the couch.

dirty pants.

overbush in her pants.

I hug her and feel better.

she feels like she's fading away in my arms

and nothing I say or do will make her

just eat something.

"Mom, I'm not hungry."

Baron Cohen, a neuroscientist from the University of Cambridge, has a mother who is a mother of a child with autism. She is a mother of a child with autism. She is a mother of a child with autism.

SHEENA'S PLACE

HEALTH

## Love Potion Number 3.141592

**A study says two math whizzes are more likely to have an autistic child**

**BY DAVID GREENBERG** • It was dubbed the "geek syndrome" epidemic: a huge surge in the number of children diagnosed with autism in California throughout the '90s. State officials were more than ruffled between 1994 and 2004, and numbers were especially high in Santa Clara County, the heart of Silicon Valley. The theory floated at the time—based on anecdotal evidence—was that this abundance of autism kids resulted from the mating and breeding of fathers who'd flooded the valley during the dot-com boom, creating a gene pool rich with autistic predispositions.

Now there is scientific evidence to back up the notion that "autism attracts." One of the less romantic ideas about how it's driven by DNA, in particular by an attraction to DNA that matches our own. It's called assortative mating, and scientists are wondering if it may help explain a worldwide increase in the prevalence of autism almost one per case of children are currently diagnosed with infant spectrum disorder (which includes Asperger's syndrome), up from four out of every 10,000 in the '70s. Improved diagnoses is widely recognized as a big factor in that shift, but new research by Simon Baron-Cohen, director of the Autism Research Centre at the University of Cambridge, suggests the Silicon Valley hypothesis may also play an important part, given that rates of women into scientific and technological fields over the past decade had a halt.

Scientists have now seen a rising tide that autism, which, as most women, can prevent a person from communicating or relating with others, is primarily genetic. Many believe the genes that cause it are highly infrequent, but some, like Baron-Cohen, think they're more widespread in the general population. Baron-Cohen (who, yes, the cousin of the Sacha Baron-Cohen referred to elsewhere in this magazine as Boor) believes parents of children with ASD share what he calls "systemizing" genes, making them especially good at monitoring detail, focusing on traits and understanding patterns. His research has turned up unusual similarities among the parents, including exceptional skill on geometry tests and certain common patterns of brain activity. And in one given pairing, both mother and father are likely

to have had an engineer for a father.

Baron-Cohen had hoped to continue his research with a Silicon Valley-type population in a university dedicated to math and science (he asked that the school not be named), but the project got shut down. "People were worried that might put them in a bad light," he says. That's because the other side of Baron-Cohen's theory is that systemizing isn't necessarily empathizing, lowering systemizers with very compromised



AUTISM may be explained by our attraction to DNA that's like our own.

social skills. And it is the social deficit that makes life so difficult for people with autism.

That's proven right, what do we do with the information? Baron-Cohen rejects controversy. "Is it going to lead to this question of whether we have to be careful who we marry or have kids with?" he says. He is currently collecting data with online questionnaires that score a person's systemizing, empathizing and autistic traits. Participants rate how strongly they agree or disagree with statements like, "I can easily visualize how the motorways in my region link up," or "I find it easy to put myself as somebody else's shoes." (Some of it really basic: male/female, neurotypical, Baron-Cohen has argued the male brain is more vulnerable to autism, which supports his view. However, Baron-Cohen

also believes women can have male brains.) It's almost possible to imagine these two being wed in dating quarters, or ways for couples to make reproductive choices. "Some people might be quite worried about that approach to parenting," says Baron-Cohen.

As an attraction is only another layer to solve. "The question we get asked most often is, 'what's the likelihood my second child is going to be autistic?'" says Stephen Scherer, a senior associate at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. "Is there anything we can do?" The genetic map of autism is quickly getting filled in, there is already substantial evidence pointing to specific chromosomes where genes for autism are located.

Scientists are hopeful they will soon be able to diagnose specific types of autism, recommend tailored behavioral programs, perhaps develop drugs to treat specific symptoms, maybe find ways to turn certain genes on or off. It's even possible that all of this can happen before a baby is born.

Baron-Cohen hopes his research will underscore how important systemizing genes are in our technologically dependent culture, and so ensure more will be helpful autistic children, rather than try to eradicate entire genes. And Scherer believes identifying the genetics of autism will shift the culture around a condition once associated with "troubling mother" and parental self-blame. After all, we can't help our genes. And we usually don't get to choose who we fall in love with. ■

### PLEASE REFRAIN FROM EATING YOUR BATH

PHIL, a Tokyo beauty apothecary, has introduced chocolate baths to help smooth away wrinkles and rejuvenate women's bodies. Chocolate contains polyphenols which, says director Haruhiko Matsuda, can delay the effects of aging. The "bath" actually consists of a paste of chocolate and magnesium, which is massaged on women's bodies while they lie on massage tables. "It's like your skin as smooth as glass for a week," Matsuda says.

TONICS

PHOTOGRAPH BY LISA JO REILLY

MACLEANS NOV 6 2014



# Misunderstood Marie Antoinette

A few women can get away with conspicuous consumption. Most can't. BY HARRIARA AMIEL

The head of the 17-year-old Marie Antoinette, queen of France, was graced by her shouken 113 years ago in the Place de la Concorde. The executioner held a bayonetted sword and whined like the executioner of the mob. Earlier that day, she had been forced to change into a white shift in front of the guillotine—a last black prison dress he retained as memento. She had been hunching heavily for days, and as she changed, the trend to hide her blood-stained chemise from the guards' eyes.

Marie Antoinette went, historians tell us, eagerly to her death. Life was no longer of any great importance. She showed no signs of fear, no bewilderment at the bonaparte with hands on her behind her. Her dignity was unimpeachable to the radicals of the time. "The where," wrote Jacques Helvet, editor of *Le Petit Dictionnaire*, "was bold and elegant to the very end." Only one of her children survived the French Revolution, and that daughter had no children. The blood that smothered over the scaffold would never run in the veins of descendants.

Her physical life ended on high drama. The lens had begun after death. Was the statue or more armed against? No such pining and frocks, or a negligent and downward women in real therapy.

With execution came a new industry. Vastly every friend of hers who survived the French Revolution wrote a book of memoirs, as did her chambermaids, the first, second and third under masks, the prison warden in charge of five last guests, the governesses

of her children, and even her executioner. Only Marie, her day, stayed out of print.

In the past couple of months, we've seen a new PBS two-hour documentary on her life, the publication of Caroline Weber's book *Queen of Fictions* on her wardrobe, *Mar-*



KRISTEN DUNST in the film *Marie Antoinette*. (Image miniature portraits)

a new *Lashio* Visconti: Her life took place at a spontaneous market in Italy, she was the patronage mark, though she never returned. An entire world order came to an end on her watch. She was born an Austrian archduchess, daughter of the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and his formidable wife, Maria Theresa. At 15, she was sent to marry the dauphin of France, a boy she had never seen, in order to cement relations between Austria and France.

Her life began with the absolute of the Hapsburg empire, where all power lay with her parents, and ended in the bloodshed, savage streets of the French Revolution, where all power lay in the hands of "the people." There would be no neutral and uninvolved regions, but the world of Centralist aristocracy would never be the same after her execution.

Saint or sinner, Marie Antoinette's astonishing extravagance deserves close context, and Joan Delon's book *The Kingdom of Style* tells it. Marie Antoinette's great-grand great-grand father was the "King King," Louis XV, credited from mid-18th century as style master to student Londoner Victor. Under his reign, the gold of the aristocracy was officially recognized and a new word, "conscience," was created. Paris got its first two years (Madame Villeneuve or Placide Villeneuve, Madame Rivarod and Madame Prevot on the rue des Poy-Champs) and fine celebrity handbags for women; previously there had never been handbags for men and their ways.

The Sun King encouraged the baroque culture of luxury goods that was to inspire Marie Antoinette (and her mother), and promoted the French textile business by such means as outlawing wool from the East. By the time of Marie Antoinette, Jean-Baptiste Nodding, one of the last French masters before the Revolution, could say with accuracy, "For the French, taste is the most difficult of business." Into this honey pot came the Austrian Marie Antoinette, whose power need was to appear more French than the French.

Her father, Jean-Baptiste Nodding, one of the last French masters before the Revolution, could say with accuracy, "For the French, taste is the most difficult of business." Into this honey pot came the Austrian Marie Antoinette, whose power need was to appear more French than the French.

In modern usage, the name Marie Antoinette has become the negative epitaph of the female consumer postcard—the cover of low-end versions of power to go—either woman or boy in the fashion. The meaning of the presidential palace in Marie's was bound to be described as having "a Marie Antoinette moment" when Louis-Marie's first choice of coffee was consumed. Louis-Marie became the Queen of Meats (a play on the Queen of France, as Marie Antoinette is often called) when she told her housekeeper "only like people's people" ("delectable" or "Estate") Paris called her a power hungry Marie Antoinette after she reached for the perfume bottle—and the Christian Dior crown.

The accusation of someone being a "Marie Antoinette" is a slur, as expressed as her post. "We don't do the upstart at any high-handed woman, especially one who has climbed the gritty pole through her association with men, rather than by birth or her own accomplishments." There is a Marie Antoinette when she indulges in too many handbags when she buys expensive loaves for her children. Mike Maloney, on *Paris*, was asked to tell 11 or Marie Antoinette when she stepped out controversially for the press corps "like, New York's own Susan Sarandon was actually parodied to a Marie Antoinette, not only because of the high life she gave France, but probably because she was, after all, just a little accident for the American from Chicago and not born in the little English cottage she occasionally mentioned. Louis XVI was a high school dropout claiming to have attended Harvard College.

Some women can just about get away with conspicuous consumption if they are sufficiently liked. When Jacqueline Kennedy incurred astronomical couture bills beyond John F. Kennedy's means, as one credited Marie Antoinette, though the name was invoked when the became Mrs. Gossard—the first wealthy Greek husband being less accurate than the tall blonde American one. Diana, Princess of Wales couldn't have been more of a duchess than in her beautiful outfit by Catherine Walker and Bruce Oldfield, but she was asked, and successfully span the nation that she was doing it for British fashion—an echo of the argument that Marie Antoinette's real crime was doing so to help the French textile industry.

Men get a pass all day. There is no comparable law directed at males who go off the list buying wondrous of Louis XV suits, Gucci shoes or velvet shoes off the list of those 21,000 shawls (made from the hair of some antique living on top of a Tibetan woman. This is not gender bias, only recognition that men usually wear public

**ALL 'MARIE ANTOINETTES' SHARE HER BLINDNESS TO THE DANGERS OF SOCIAL GENEROSITY**



JACQUELINE KENNEDY IN 1961

togetherness to the money they spend. Women, you often hear, They spend the money that some men cobbles to stretch for them.

How did Marie Antoinette track up next to Princess Di or Jacqueline Kennedy? The closer we look in the latest pages, the more ordinary she seems. She had no special interest, was not even a beauty—yet she had—though her skin was said to have an exquisite complexion. In fact, she had no special virtues or vices. She was accurately named up in the suburbs of St. Jean's biography *Marie Antoinette: Portrait of an Average Woman* that when a person of ordinary quality goes through an extraordinary moment in his story, then both their virtues and vices may be magnified.

An average price is defined by the others, and which prices are born. The very quality that makes them average is that they are no more or less than the total product of their time and place. Marie Antoinette simply believed she was, well, Marie Antoinette, daughter of the great Maria Theresa and wife of the French king. She was entitled to what she wanted. That's the way the 18th century worked for a queen.

Her actions would have been measured or greatly only if she had had no sense of craft and no belief or belief to be going away with something—like the secretary who stole a million dollars from her boss and spends it on Cartier watches and holiday houses

John Coates and of Victor Hugo's precision and imploring that he was "the madman who brought the war to the French." Marie Antoinette was the spender who believed she was Marie Antoinette. Being a rather ordinary person, she was not likely to have a great intellectual or artistic endeavor. She did the best at what she was supposed to do, being the leader of French style.

Three hundred frocks got her through a year. French fashion points of today, it would not suggest that the woman who spent hundreds of millions in the gardens and gardens of the Petit Trianon, in part to create an appearance of rustic simplicity, in other words as normal. Of that the queen, dressed in her version of simple rural clothes (the loose "sleeves" ordered by the doctors from her nurse Rose Bernier-Petit) and among the circle of abdications in the popular life (the white robe, was doing nothing extraordinary.

But she wasn't even innocent. Only her sole was more likely to be called "her loss." When it came to the starting "new" designs of the gardens at Petit Trianon at her informal dresses, she was simply following the cue for the surmounting of philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Antoine Petit put the finger on it when she wore that whether it was Marie Antoinette's love for the garden that makes nature as her desire to move out of the "mechanical brocade of ceremony" into a simpler life, the queen was only following the weight of her time. Even Marie Antoinette's notorious postcard scandal had been taken by the layered outside look of the 18th century. By 1793, the hair dress was so tall that the face of Saint Simon equipped that women's floss was now "in the middle of their bodies."

Marie Antoinette discovered high hair in 1794 when Rose Bernier—promoted—was presented to her by the duchess of Charms. The notion of hair that ascended several feet high, sporting everything from bird cages to ships (like the hair of contemporary British oilman Philip Trenchard), multiplied her hair and became her signature look. Just as Meg Ryan's hair was copied by flocks that ought to have known better, so the queen's hairline became the standard look in court and among the haute and lower bourgeoisie. After seeing Marie Antoinette's hair, a duchess, with aristocratic, rich and a village, it was only a matter of time before the queen to tell her hairdresser the "I don't know again were anything but original."

Life wasn't all archaic and lace. Marie Antoinette did not persevere with a fumbling, inept husband for the first seven years of her marriage, while the proof that her failure to produce a heir to the throne would not result in the dissolution of their marriage

As if social drought wasn't bad enough for a young woman, it also had to cope with prying courtiers reporting her marital crisis, the scandalous marriage included them, her husband, and the condition of his night's bed kept to every court in Europe. Each royal house had some of its own marriage bed of the French royals. She watched the scrutiny with perfect serenity.

Enigmas didn't permit her to put on her own dress. Passively, she stood naked and shivering in her bedroom, waiting for her dress to be placed on her body by the highest-ranking women in the room. Meanwhile, the bedroom door would open to admit yet another man—some procession of the blood to whom her dress had to be relinquished. She responded to the formal pantomime with only wide, curious, managing, stoic, her rebellious dislike of French ceremonial society under control.

But there was nothing in her waiting for revolution. Maria Theresa had given her daughter no lessons in decorum in the face of hardship. There had been no rehearsal for using the head of her friend pressed around as a pillow, no etiquette lessons on how to deal with male baying for her to be torn limb from limb, or the newspaper editor who called for her to be dragged through the streets at the tail of a galloping horse. After the execution of her husband, she fought to save her children, only to have them all taken from her and then, to see, eight months later, beheaded, eight-year-old son publicly and enthusiastically testify that she had indulged in unsanctified sexual practices with him. Her Austrian royal relations shunned her. Yet she never flinched during her last four years of hell.

Enigmas people who are not trusting their high gross income are not volunteers but they are, as much literature of war and occupation than. On a more pragmatic level, many women in the public eye find themselves suddenly moved in humiliating and difficult situations and make something admirable out of despair. Katherine Graham was far

from abandonment by the disaffected husband she loved when he committed suicide. She overcame her own insecurities to run the newspaper empire. Moreover, she watched her Post and several TV stations with enormous success. Jacqueline Kennedy endured

political career. Diana ran Portsmouth row like a corner and lived on glossy magazine conventions half of a Marie Antoinette social as people, applied for permits and fast. When her marriage failed, she turned all these late nights and wardrobe experiences into a successful business empire based on the same movie way time. The sort of getting over it and on with it attitude to life is related to the Marie Antoinette syndrome in the tracks—and firmest difficult to accomplish—but rarely gives the credit due.

In the end, the one final thing all so called Marie Antoinettes share with the real one is blindness to the dangers of any social proximity they may display. When Marie Antoinette invited friends beneath her royal status to Post Time, she never thought that for every one invited, she was making at least a dozen enemies of, in French parlance, "châtelains." Even the friends she invited might have felt they were not well enough served by one emotion. Whether it is the rich or the poor, the same pettles want anyone who achieves any sort of social prominence.

Happily, today there is regulation for the deadly power. Only the filmmaker and tabloid that stored up the media remains. These days that motive is not even possible here but rather the most likely master of all—to tell their souls and other people's lives in records of emotion and a few pennies. In her lifetime, Marie Antoinette never understood the power of those crude pamphlets. As the blade dropped, she was more likely thinking of her Goyaer than the yellow press, a far better choice of subject for the art world, but an artistic crime in the one she left. ■



Marie Antoinette in 1793, the same year she faced the guillotine

the assassination of her husband and the media vilification of her marriage to an Austrian to become an accomplished book editor and devoted mother, bene in her own premature death.

Hillary Clinton was never a slacker, always ambitious, but it takes quite something to turn your husband's public betrayal into the platform to launch your own spectacular

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#### CHINA: HISTORIC SACRIFICE RATES A TV

The reward comes better late than never. But on the 20th anniversary of the Long March, the Chinese government is rewarding survivors of the trek as well as those who helped them along the way. The famous trek saw thousands of Communists flee to the remote interior to escape the Nationalist forces of Chiang Kai-shek. The reward will be \$6,000 TV sets, which, a state newspaper says, will allow the Long March survivors "to enjoy the viewing facilities."



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**WHO NEEDS THEM?** Kids now prefer Playstations and other sophisticated electronic toys.

## DOPES WITH A ROPE

**Skipping is vanishing, along with other classic games. Big deal? It is.**

**BY CYNTHIA KENTHOLD** • On a Saturday afternoon at a playground in Toronto, a little girl in pigtails was skipping rope. To be precise, she was stepping over the rope, rather than jumping it. She seemed ill at ease with the apparatus and she didn't know any songs or rhymes. "We used to skip all the time," her mother said, shaking her head. Thaya Katsigias, a teacher at St. Catherine's, Ont., knows what she means. "Skipping doesn't really happen anymore," she says. "Double Dutch—I haven't seen that in the seven years I've been teaching." It's such a shame that in the U.K. a group called Skipping Works has started popping up at parks with schools to teach kids how to skip again.

But there isn't much skipping. Many kinds of loose-parts play, which rely on manipulating simple props like blocks or alphabet puppets, are vanishing. Pearl Blake, a recreational therapist and parent of two, was so concerned after witnessing kids just running the grounds at noon she founded Positive Playgrounds, an Ontario-based national organization that teaches youth the forgotten games of hopscotch, marbles, freckles. A growing number of parents, teachers and business leaders think it important to address the loss of such games, they say, or their play deficit could affect our economic trajectory down the road. "The boys we give kids are feeding the problem. A skipping toy industry, trying to outpace with the market DVD and gaming play-

let, has shifted its focus from loose parts playthings like building blocks or zoo animals to structured, often electronically sophisticated toys that can be used only in their one intended way. Today's toys, says Thaya Levin, professor of education at Wilfrid Laurier College in Waterloo, usually only kids actually want to make to perform. "I see kids pick up Play-Doh now and say 'What does it do?'" says Levin, who was banned by Blue Box from his exhibit at the 2004 International Toy Fair after convincing one of its McDonald's sponsors to let him come with models so kids could make only one.

Instead, it's these kids who've become so used to the electronic toys who have the worst. Psychologist Madeleine Levine wrote her recent book, *Prison of Playthings*, after watching her practice fill up with affluent teens showing signs of depression and general unhappiness. Their parents can afford non-stop enrichment and entertainment—from private tutors and coaches to DVD players and Playstations in the cars—which means they get little time to daydream and few problems to solve on their own. Levine heard about a dad who had the children at his son's party ordered from stations to station in search of M&M's. Eight years later, says Levine, kids like this are sitting in her office, angry, bored—not to mention bored—and bereft of basic life skills. "It's a huge problem for society," she says.

In class, Katsigias is discouraged by students. They are just as bored with work, they're puzzled why they should have to take notes when he could easily hand out photocopies. She sees every day why kids no longer skip. "They're too busy being entertained."

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**YOU CAN'T PICK YOUR FAMILY**



### A DYING MOTHER ATTENDS TO FINAL BUSINESS

Gorvally ill, a Bulgarian woman who killed her son with a hoe while he slept was recently freed from prison. Now in the final stages of cancer, the 61-year-old prisoner was ordered released by judicial authorities so she might conclude her life peacefully at home. But when she got there, she fatally stabbed her husband in the throat with a knife. Now back in custody, she's worried officials that if they let her out again she'll do it again to her other son.



# IS THIS THE BONO WE LOVE?

**He's part owner of Forbes, and of a firm that makes games for the army... Et tu, U2?**

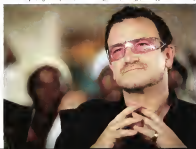
**BY SHARON DEWIL** • Like a gift to us, Bono went to jail last night. U2's former stylist, Loli Cashman, has her mug, her green sweater, a Christmas earring, leather pants, a pair of hoop earrings and more accessories in her jail cell—the one he went during his last night. Cashman worked with the band during the Joshua Tree tour and according to Bono was a difficult employee who would sometimes show up in his clothes. And now, years after splitting from the band, she's attempted to sell her U2 merchandise through Christie's auction house. On the other hand, Bono says that Cashman is responsible for making him look like a real man. Bono says: "And that's got to be a worth a coffee or two."

Last July, a Dublin court ruled in favour of the band, but Cashman—who claims the items were gifts—has appealed, and the band and Bono are back in court. Why is one of the world's richest men investing himself in such a legal battle? It can't be the sexual abuse charges. More like it's the fact that, in 2004, Cashman published an unauthorized tell-all biography, *Inside the Zoo with U2: My Life with the World's Biggest Rock Band*, in which she reveals that Bono went into his shoes and has problems with his weight.

Last week on the same stand, Bono was thrown off guard when asked to state his name. "Bono... or Paul Hewson," he replied. After all, when was the last time somebody asked? But he has two names only: the surface of the rock star's daily life. Of course he's a Nobel Prize nominee, one of the leading crusaders for AIDS research and relieving Third World debt, and *Time*'s Person of the Year. But to many of his business associates, he's a sharp contractor, a socially conscious, politically active person, if not downright hypocritical.

Bono is, for instance, co-founder of an investment firm, Elevator, with former Apple CEO Fred Anderson and John Biederman, the former CEO of video game giant Electronic Arts, and of Elevator's deals are a bit odd with what you'd expect from the con-

sumable rock star. There's the \$100 million that bought a 40 per cent share of Fisher Investments (Thanks to concert rules, U2 now finds itself fourth on *Forbes*'s list of the 100 most powerful celebrities—after not appearing at all in 2004). Then there's the other \$100 million Elevator invested last year into one of the world's leading gaming companies, the L.A.-based Pandemic Studios and the Edmonton-based RedWire. The latter specializes in role-playing fantasy titles, while the



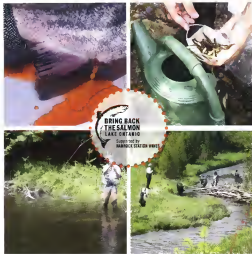
**'WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BE TAX EFFICIENT?' ASKS U2**

former owner some of the most violent games on the shelves, including *Manhunt 2*. World as Famous, which also owns the coal mine of Canada, Venezuela. Another title, *Full Spectrum Warrior*, began as a simulator for the U.S. Army military training.

Not the kind of business deal you'd bring home on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*—where Bono recently landed off his more business-

ness present, the PRODUCE! 800 campaign. The company who makes the money in those 700 up games has convinced corporations like Gap, Motorola and Apple to donate profits from red T-shirts, cellphones, iPods, etc., to Africa. The power of celebrity persuasion is in turn exactly what Elevator sees as a selling point to prospective business partners. According to the company's mission statement, "Through his involvement with U2 and his advocacy of social causes, Bono offers... relationships at the highest levels of media and government. How synergic? Well...

Even if we can forgive Bono his viceroy investment firm, considering his good deeds, it's harder to justify the recent relocation of U2's business in the Netherlands after he landed out on his back for a year. U2's lead guitarist, the Edge, has stepped forward to say,



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## THE FOUR-LEGGED SECRET TO PUMPKIN SUPREMACY

Chris Schreier and employees at the Central Compost Facility in Prince Edward Island have swept this year's Composting Coalition of Canada national pumpkin-growing competition, with a 191-gallon pumpkin that beat 24 other composting facilities. Which is their secret? "A couple of deer barged in out," Schreier says. In other provinces, the deer damaged the would-be prize-winning plants, slowing their growth. Prince Edward Island has no deer.

# Diabetes & Heart Disease

## The harsh facts

### Fight one, fight the other

For many years, people with diabetes have focused on their blood glucose levels as the key to managing the disease, but things are different now. The Canadian Diabetes Association is highlighting a new approach in its national campaign in November: "Think of diabetes as a cardiovascular disease."

The connection between diabetes and cardiovascular disease has never been clearer – or more sobering. Cardiovascular disease is the most common complication of diabetes. In fact, 80% of people who have diabetes will actually die of a cardiovascular complication, such as heart attack or stroke, says Donna Lillie, vice-president of research and professional education for the Canadian Diabetes Association.

A recent study underlines some of the specific dangers. The Diabetes in Canada Evaluation study found that more than 50% of people with type 2 diabetes had complications including lipid problems, heart disease and high blood pressure. The risk of cardiovascular complications (heart disease and stroke as well as eye and kidney disease, nerve damage and foot problems) is the same for type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Cardiovascular disease is at least double in men and triple in women with diabetes compared to people without diabetes.

To manage and prevent type 2 diabetes – and heart disease – doctors are now taking a much wider approach and aggressively targeting not only blood glucose but also blood pressure and blood fat (lipids) such as cholesterol, a strategy proven to also work in managing type 1 diabetes. New lipid clinical practice guidelines recently announced by the Canadian Diabetes Association underline the heart disease connection and call for even tighter control of blood fat levels for people with diabetes than before. And while healthy lifestyle changes continue to be an important part of the equation, the spotlight is now on medication as a first-line treatment. ►



## What your Denturist needs you to know about

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Denturists receive training in technical, scientific and health aspects of making and modifying dentures. Many of the courses required for certification as a Denturist in Ontario are based on the health sciences and closely resemble those studied by students in dentistry and dental hygiene. Head & neck anatomy, general anatomy & physiology, dental anatomy, pathophysiology, oral pathology, pharmacology & pathology

microbiology and dental materials are among the core subjects in the denturism curriculum.

Denturists are important members of the oral healthcare team. If you wear partial or complete dentures, it is especially important to take good care of your gums and remaining natural teeth. In recent studies, gum disease has been linked to other serious health conditions such as heart disease and stroke, diabetes and respiratory illnesses. It is extremely important to have an oral examination annually at which time your Denturist will assess the fit and function of your dentures ensuring that your oral health is maintained.

In Ontario all Denturists must be registered with the College of Denturists of Ontario which regulates the profession under the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) to ensure the public receives safe and effective care. The Denturist's Certificate of Registration must be prominently displayed in their offices.

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# LIVING WITH HIGH CHOLESTEROL

## YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S AROUND THE CORNER



**Don't delay. Take control of your cholesterol now.**

Some risks can be managed. One of them is your high cholesterol, which can lead to cardiovascular disease such as a heart attack or even a stroke.<sup>1</sup> Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Canada and about one quarter of heart attack sufferers do not survive.<sup>2</sup>

Life is precious, so why not take measures to reduce unnecessary risk? High cholesterol is manageable. A healthy lifestyle is an essential part, but sometimes not enough. So it may be necessary for your doctor to incorporate other measures.

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**Cholesterol & Your Heart**



The good news in all of this: Understanding the connection between diabetes and cardiovascular disease means everyone can take steps that have been proven effective in preventing or delaying the onset of these life-threatening complications.

It all adds up to "escalating the message that diabetes is a very serious disease," says Lefler, "and we have to get a handle on it."

For more information, visit [www.getwiseones.ca](http://www.getwiseones.ca) or call 1-800-BANTING (226-4466).

## Targeting blood fats

The Canadian Diabetes Association recently released new clinical practice guidelines for the management of lipids (blood fats such as cholesterol and triglycerides) in adults who have diabetes.

Previously, the target for LDL cholesterol (the unhealthy type of cholesterol) was under 2.5 mmol/L. Now, for most adults with diabetes, the target is 2 mmol/L, or lower. The new guidelines also spell out that the most effective method to achieve this new LDL cholesterol target is with medication, especially with the class of cholesterol-lowering drugs called statins.

ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

## HOW TO IMPROVE LIPID LEVELS

Aggressively managing lipids can lower the risk of heart attack, stroke and death, says Dr. Stewart Harris, professor in family medicine at University of Western Ontario and chair of the Clinical and Scientific Section of the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Here's how:

- Ensure you have your lipids tested every one to three years, and ask for your results. Work with your diabetes care team, which includes your physician, dietitian, nurse and pharmacist to achieve your recommended lipid targets.
- Take your medication as recommended. Statins are the first drugs of choice to lower cholesterol, as they are very effective and have minimal side effects, says Harris. There are also new combination drugs that put different medications together in one tablet to reduce the number of pills someone with diabetes must take.
- Get at least 30 minutes of physical activity five to seven days a week. Walk whenever you can – buy a pedometer and aim to walk at least 10,000 steps a day. Try new fun activities such as learning to dance, playing basketball or riding a bike.
- Reduce total fat consumption (especially saturated and trans fat) and increase the amount of fibre in your diet.

"It's unlikely that many people will achieve the new target through lifestyle alone," says Dr. Lawrence Leiter, head of the endocrinology and metabolism division at St. Michael's Hospital and professor of medicine and nutritional sciences at University of Toronto. Although exercise and good planning are important, the guidelines call for reducing lipids using drugs in combination with lifestyle measures. "Having to take medication is not a reflection of not working out enough or not eating right," says Leiter. "Lifestyle is just not enough [to adequately reduce lipid levels]."

The Canadian Diabetes Association published the lipid guidelines well ahead of its more comprehensive planned revision of the 2003 *Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Canada* (scheduled for publication in 2008) because recent studies showed important benefits in managing cholesterol more aggressively. High cholesterol is an important risk factor for heart disease, and heart disease is at the top of the list of the serious complications of type 1 and 2 diabetes.

The aggressive management of cholesterol is just one of a number of cardio-protective strategies that the Association recommends, says Leiter. "We're also looking for good blood glucose control, good blood pressure control, and the routine use of other medications that reduce the risk of heart disease." He says these medications include ASA (Aspirin) and ACE-inhibitors, which were developed to lower blood pressure but have now been shown to reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes even in individuals with normal blood pressure. A healthy diet, regular physical activity and not smoking are also essential.

"The more of these changes that a person undertakes, the lower their risk of heart disease will be," Leiter says. "In fact, we can cut the risk of heart disease by two-thirds to three-quarters by following all of these recommendations."

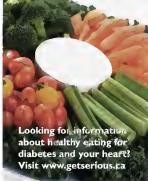
## Prevention comes first

Ever since Cornelia Cornett, a 47-year-old freelance writer in Toronto, developed gestational diabetes during her pregnancies 12 and 16 years ago, she has been wary of her risk for diabetes.

Gestational diabetes, which develops during pregnancy, usually goes away after the child is born — as it did with Cornett. But having had it puts Cornett at an increased risk for developing type 2 diabetes.

As a result, Cornett gets annual checkups and her doctor keeps close tabs on her blood glucose, blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Cornett also keeps active — she takes hour-long fitness walks with friends once or twice a week, swims every day during the summer and takes a fitness class once a week. She also walks whenever she can rather than taking the car. And while she has a lot of a sweet tooth, she follows a healthy meal plan and eats lots of fruit, vegetables and other high-fibre foods.

These steps are all classic ways to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes. They are important to follow because it's a progressive disease. Serious complications



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including heart disease and stroke are often already present at the time of diagnosis.

"Prediabetes" is a condition that flags the potential for type 2 diabetes and its complications over time.

Prediabetes is when blood glucose levels are elevated — called impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) or impaired fasting glucose (IFG) — but not quite at the level that defines a diabetes diagnosis (fasting plasma glucose level of 7.0 mmol/L or higher).

"When there is an indication that blood glucose levels are abnormal but not high enough to diagnose diabetes, there is a great opportunity to move quickly and manage risks," says Leiter. Increasing moderate-intensity physical activity to 150 minutes a week and losing 5% to 10% of body weight have been shown through studies in Finland and the U.S. to have a significant impact on reducing the number of people who progress to diabetes. Your doctor may choose to prescribe medications as well, she adds.

## ARE YOU AT RISK?

The Canadian Diabetes Association recommends everyone be screened for type 2 diabetes once they reach the age of 40 and every three years after that. Your doctor may keep closer tabs if you have risk factors for developing diabetes including:

- A first-degree relative ( sibling or parent) who already has diabetes
- A high-risk group, such as those of Aboriginal, Hispanic, Asian, South Asian, or African descent
- A history of impaired glucose tolerance, impaired fasting glucose or prediabetes
- Evidence of the complications of diabetes, such as eye, nerve or kidney problems
- Heart disease
- A history of gestational diabetes
- A history of giving birth to a baby that weighed over 4 kg (9 lb) at birth
- High blood pressure or high cholesterol
- Obesity especially around the abdomen
- Diagnosis of polycystic ovary syndrome, acanthosis nigricosa (darkened patches of skin) or schizophrenia.

Be good to your heart. Because you'd like to meet your daughter-in-law. Because you like to be

ticked. Because this week's lottery is \$20 million. Because your luck is about to change. Because you finally have time for a hobby. Because the election is coming. Because you haven't left your mark. Because you're comfortable. Because you want to hear someone call you grandma.

Because you're living with diabetes. Because you've got unfinished business. Because you've never been to Africa. Because you've just discovered yoga. Because you haven't read that message in your inbox.

Because you haven't seen your brother in years. Because your crush will be at the reunion. Because your baste buds are just waking up. Because you're enjoying the finer things. Because you've found the perfect colour for the living room. Because you just learned a really good joke. Because you can finally

keep up with the aerobics instructor. Because you can't wait for next week's episode. Because you've got one chapter left. Because you're up to four times more likely to suffer from heart disease.

Because you've finally realized why people love to golf. Because you were going to call back but you just haven't had time. Because there's only one unsolved clue in the crossword. Because the new spring collection is on its way. Because you're finally standing out. Because your rut is

swinging into a groove. Because this fortune cookie might be right. Because you've never used the good china. Because what's on Mars? Because you have a full day planned tomorrow. Because he'll

miss you. Because she'll miss you. Because they'll all miss you. Because reality TV is on its way out. Because a little thing can make a big difference. Because you've yet to get

your 15 minutes in the spotlight. Because you're on the up and up.

Because a healthy diet low in saturated and trans fats may reduce your risk of heart disease. Because is low in saturated and trans fats.

Be, no matter what your reasons, be good to your heart.





"Eat right and exercise" is the mantra of just about every healthcare professional. But wouldn't it be great if someone told us exactly what to eat and how to exercise to best improve our health?

University of Toronto researcher Pearl Yang is looking a how to use regular exercise – aerobic exercise and resistance training – to combat both type 2 diabetes and heart diseases. Resistance training increases muscle strength, endurance and power by opposing movement using free weights, weight machines, resistance bands or your own weight.

"Your muscles are your largest storage organ for glucose," explains Yang. "By training muscles, resistance exercises not only help the body's blood glucose management but also strengthen and build more muscle mass. Long-term exercise can improve blood glucose control and favorably affect the risk factors leading to cardiovascular disease, such as hypertension, abnormal blood cholesterol, insulin resistance, obesity and physical inactivity."

The result of the study, Yang hupo, will be a clear resistance training prescription that is manageable, feasible and acceptable for people with type 2 diabetes.

*"With the knowledge and actions required to prevent or delay diabetes, we can have a major impact on decreasing the number of people with type 2 diabetes in Canada."*



In another project, a pilot study by Mary Kendziora, research associate at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, examines whether a version of an innovative diet can work with medications to help patients achieve earlier treatment targets for cholesterol, blood pressure and other risk factors that contribute to cardiovascular disease and complications of diabetes.

The diet, called the portfolio diet and developed by Dr. David Jenkins, Canadian researcher at metabolism and nutrition at the University of Toronto and St. Michael's Hospital, has a low glycaemic index and contains a traditional low-fat, high-fiber diet with specific foods (such as soy, nuts and those containing soluble fiber) known to lower cholesterol.

The study focuses on people with type 2 diabetes who have recently undergone coronary artery bypass graft surgery and who are taking statins. Keith will assess the effects of the diet after two weeks and then four weeks.

The diet is intended to help at multiple levels – improving blood pressure and glucose control, reducing cholesterol levels and improving other markers of disease risk.

Because it is a strict diet, says Keith, another important part of the study will be to assess how well participants were able to follow the meal plan at home. "The results of this study will be important, particularly if we can reduce hospitalizations by reducing risk factors and helping patients to meet treatment targets." ■

[illegible]

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FIGURE 1 | **Flowchart of the study.**



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## Appendix C CONTENTS

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### Reformulation of a group of inequalities without radicals

For more information about diabetes prevention and management, contact the Canadian Diabetes Association at [www.diabetes.ca](http://www.diabetes.ca) or 1-800-EATING (1-800-324-6444).

The Canal in D stems from the fact that, for almost 100 years, the primary goal of the public awareness initiative was to



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**He's as offensive as the bigoted star of 'All in the Family.' But Sacha Baron Cohen's character makes people uneasy in the real world.**

BY JAMIE J. WEINMAN

to people who don't seem quite so he's looking. And it's that kind of uncertainty—the possibility over whether he's a danger or not—that defines the success not only of Cohen, but of Stephen Colbert and Sarah Silverman and many other contemporary comedians who succeeded by becoming the people they hate.

Cohen was one of two superstar comedians whose careers were launched on England's *The 11 O'Clock Show*; the other was Ricky Gervais (*The Office*). Cohen's character on *The 11 O'Clock Show* was Ali G, a parody

of people who don't seem quite so he's looking. And it's that kind of uncertainty—the possibility over whether he's a danger or not—that defines the success not only of Cohen, but of Stephen Colbert and Sarah Silverman and many other contemporary comedians who succeeded by becoming the people they hate.

# Did Bunker beget Borat?

**film**

"Throw the Jew down the well, so my identity can be free," says the lead character of a new movie. And he's not the villain, either. It's Borat, the

Kazakh character who's been spun off into the new film *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*. And yet in the context of today's comedy, it's actually not at all that unusual to have a comic character saying racially offensive things. It's politically correct to be politically incorrect.

Nathan Rabbin, critic for *The Onion's A.V. Club*, *Rolling Stone* and *The Guardian*, noted on *SouthPark*, *Borat*, *Boyz n the Moor* and *White Stripes* a group have a much different conception of what is and is not appropriate than generations raised on water: "Borat isn't the limit of how offensive comedy will go."

Borat is really Sacha Baron Cohen, the English comedian whose other characters include Ali G, a comedy who thinks he's a hip-hop gangster, and Bruno, an Austrian fashion expert. Cohen's method is to become someone really annoying to utterly despise, go out in public, and embarrass the people he meets. The Borat movie includes mock-documentary footage of Borat saying stupid or racist things

of where British people who think they can be cool by mimicking black culture. He soon became the most popular thing on the show, a commentator on *Unsub* wrote: "When Ali comes on, the audience cheers and the protesters look equally uncomfortable with the fact that everyone is watching just for him."

A year later, Ali G had a spinoff, *Da Ali G Show*, in which he interviewed real people and humiliated them with his ridiculous questions ("Dem Jesus really exist, or is he just your father dressed up?"). The show also introduced Borat, who did much of what Ali G did, but with a different accent. One sketch found Borat going to a Texas hearing room and getting someone to agree with him that "the 'biggest people' are causing trouble all over the world." "It is obvious you cannot hate the Jew," Borat concluded.

But Cohen is one cheerfully transgressive comedian who doesn't seem to recognize

his limit, not long enough to be seen as a limiting character. "He studied one of the synagogue minutes before the service ended, which left some wondering if they actually saw him."

It'd be hard to wonder if anybody has truly seen Cohen in public for years. He never gives interviews as himself, instead appearing in character as Ali G or Borat. His personal life never finds its way into gossip magazines, even the notoriously prying British publications. When the *Guardian* did a profile of him earlier this year, the most they could come up with was the identity of his fiancée (sister-in-law) and a few interview quotes from people who knew him in college. But if all you know about an actor is that his old classroom recalls him "doing very well in *Gyges and Polydora*," then you're never going to see him on the cover of *People* magazine. All we really know about Cohen, then, is that he's a Jew who's becoming a movie star by

THE NEW FILM *Borat* stars Sacha Baron Cohen (left) as a hilariously insensitive Kazakh





playing a Jewish Jew (heer). It's not new for Jewish entertainers to parody those who hate them. Mel Brooks came up with *Springtime for Hitler*, after all. What makes Borat different is that he is an anti-Semitic character personified as the Jew, he's not heroic, but if the Borat movie has any kind of hero, it's Borat himself, the happy idiot trying to make good. And the more misanthropic he gets, the more the audience laughs.

The gold standard for hilarious racism is Archie Bunker, the bigoted father on the U.S. sitcom *All in the Family* (based on the U.K. version *Till Death Do Us Part*). In the 1970s, when *All in the Family* was the No. 1 show on TV, there was controversy about what it meant for the world's most popular fictional

people the cartoon clearly find unpleasant: Stephen Colbert, the star of *The Colbert Report*, does the whole show (including the interviews) in character as a satire of right-wing TV jokers. In Archie Bunker's time, it was unusual for the star of the show to be a character who's supposed to be wrong about everything. Now it's almost de rigeur.

The difference between Colbert and some of these other actors is that he doesn't try to reassure the audience. Rather, he points out that Colbert "gets away" by going a little further, playing this cartoonish version of his own bigotry and betraying his actual opinions. ■

## At a Texas hunting resort, Borat suggests 'the big-nosed people' are troublemakers: 'It's a shame you cannot hunt the Jew'



THE GOLD STANDARD for hilarious racism is Archie Bunker in *All in the Family* (left), a scene from the new Borat movie (right)

character to be gay who said things like (in *Surviving Daves* Jr.): "Now being [colored], I know you've got no choice in that, but what made you purple?" *Surviving Daves* is the work of the broadcaster *Goodman's Agony*, attacked the show for presenting "a comic, black-figure who made bigotry more attractive," and others feared that people were watching because they agreed with Archie.

But if Archie Bunker was an isolated phenomenon in his time, today there's been an explosion of characters in the British tradition. It's not only Borat who goes away with racist jokes in the name of satire. Eric Cartman, the most popular character on *South Park* (which just turned its 10th season in Canada on The Comedy Network), is a racist, anti-Semitic little kid who in one episode tried to wipe out the Jews. The stand-up comedian Ben Sherman has crafted her comic persona around being a pretty young woman who makes racist jokes, and she's been so successful at it that she got her own movie, *Eric Is Bigger*, where she sang "I love you more than Osama bin Laden can math."

There are other comic characters who, if not exactly racist, are supposed to be racist

because Cohen uses a majority as a person, and because he never intends out of character to tell you he really thinks he never gives you the comfort of knowing for certain that he's really on your side.

A potential problem with these characters arises, as with Archie Bunker: you can't always tell if people get the joke. The comedian Dave Chapelle, who uses racial stereotypes to lampoon racism, had a crisis of confidence when he started to wonder (according to *Time* magazine) "if there was any of this show had gone from sending up stereotypes to merely reinforcing them." And now the popularity of Borat has caused some groups to wonder whether that character is going to give aid and comfort to racist groups, the Jewish Anti-Defamation League (JAF) said a column "Entertainment on the Comedy of Sacha Baron Cohen's 'Borat,'" in which it concluded that Cohen wasn't a Jew-hater, but worried about the potential effects of Borat's comedy. "The audience may not always be sophisticated enough to get the joke, and some may even find it reinforcing their bigotry." In other words, the group fears that the movie may have a bad effect on people

who are less sophisticated than they are. Cohen thinks these concerns are mostly limited to people of an older generation, who men't used to ethnic humor. "Kids intuitively just get it: it's the adults who have problems wrapping their head around it." He illustrates this with his own experience writing for *The Onion's* fake news operation. "A lot of people just didn't get the premise of *Paros*, and even on *The Onion* had to spend a lot of time of time explaining what exactly *The Onion* was and how it operates. Now that's just not the case."

Still, a satirist can't control how satire is



CATCH A FIRE is an apartheid drama set in the '60s, but the resonance is clear: A violent regime can turn innocent civilians into terrorists

## Fireworks in the heart of darkness

Black American actors go for broke in a spate of political thrillers set in post-colonial Africa

BY BRIAN D. JENSEN

Africa is hot. And not just because Madonna and Angelina Jolie are singing anthems on it at the time. This season we're seeing a spate of political thrillers set in African countries, all of them period dramas set against backdrops of post-colonial corruption. In *The Last King of Scotland*, Forest Whitaker uncovers a terrifying portrait of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin through the fearful eyes of a young Scottish physician who just happened there. In *Catch a Fire*, Derek Luke portrays South African hero Patrick Chamusso, a victim of apartheid who's goaded into terrorist resistance. And in *Blindness*, a South African filmmaker and a Liberian filmmaker (Lance Reddick and Djimon Hounsou) try to survive a pitiless war in the heart of Sierra Leone's civil war.

Hollywood's romance with Africa, distant Africa—a mythology as old as the sun—has remained not in boldly political terms. Catch a Fire bristles the struggle against apartheid into a metaphorical war. *The Last King of Scotland* and *Blindness* of Africa are cultural themes about a failed, post-colonial adventure (Idi Amin, which looks like it's trying to channel the spirit of King Solomon's Mines), an apartheid Decade, but already the *De Beers* diamond cartel has outbought on damage control.

For the actors, these movies pose a tricky challenge: Djimon Hounsou in *Blindness* is cast as a police officer in a *Catch a Fire*—to answer the clipped cadence of an African accent, and to navigate the moral quandary of colonial-era violence. Meanwhile, Whitaker and Luke make the American quotient of their African-American identity to deliver powerhouse performances. If

they both get Oscar nominations, which seems likely, it will be unprecedented. The two black performers have ever been named for best actor in the same year. And in the end of history of the Oscars, only three black actors have won the award: Sidney Poitier, Denzel Washington and Jamie Foxx. They all played Americans—not even *Boyz n the City*, which was a corruption story.

Whitaker and Luke both play Africans whose lives have been swept by colonial wars, but from opposite ends. American photographer, Chamusso, the sympathetic terrorist. And of the two, Amin is the one who gets under your skin, so to speak. Although he's a villain, Whitaker makes him so much more than just a bad man. His evil is shown to have twisted roots in an abusive British military education. He has a childlike charm and a quicksilver shrewdness that can turn to cruelty in a flash. It's easy to see how Nicholas (Jason Mewson), the young war-torn doctor, is drawn under his spell, seduced by the allure of a world of compassion and power. To the young Scott, playing with him in the tropics, Amin becomes the beginning of every white boy's worst fears.

Whitaker's performance covers above the movie, which conveys into a rather hard truth. *Catch a Fire* is a very difficult drama. Luke plays Chamusso, an old military force man

with no attachment politics who embraces terrorism after being jailed and tortured for an act of sabotage he had nothing to do with. He's a decent family man, who catches a sister from a township police. But his life is based on a clandestine life-right into another war, and their illegitimacy, after a game. That adds intense enigma, carnage to a tale that might otherwise have been too purely heroic for its own good.

Eloquently directed by Australian Philip Noyce (*The Quiet American*, *Rabbit Proof Fence*), *Catch a Fire* directs the methodical horror of apartheid without sentiment. As No Way, the villain of the piece, Borat is nicely shaded. He's the circumstantial terrorist, who gives his children a training but, "When I look at a man, I don't see a terrorist. I see a human being." We remember his personal horror for family drama. He's a man who's a man, one of three in his own among 25 million blacks, he says, "We're the underdogs. We're the ones under attack."

*Catch a Fire* is set in the '60s, but the resonance is clear: violence, oppression and slaughter, an emboldened young man's sense of the innocent crime. The simple use of the word "terrorism" in a movie was caused as a shock, throwing the only moral equation of the current war on terror into question. As Africa—the dark continent in a material domain—conspires in colonial wounds, we get a glimpse of that so-called heart of darkness from inside out. ■



### WE'RE STALKING... RUPERT EVERETT

An unexpected windstorm ripped up the terrace of a Hollywood house he was renting. The storm smashed the dining room during dinner parties, forcing candles to light a fire. The disaster convinced Everett, now 42, to give up smoking altogether. That was 28 years ago, and ever since then the star of the *Bad Thing* has eaten his cigarettes in restaurants. "I love it," he says. "I love going to the same restaurant every day, having the same food."





STACY FARROW and Steve Beiford embark on a serious relationship when some Degrassi students move to university this season

## Teen TV that's too cool for school

**The kids of 'Degrassi' and 'Veronica Mars' make the dean's list, as 'The OC' hipsters slunk out**

**BY SHARONA DEWIL** • What is Linda Schreyer thinking? Certainly, the creator of *Degrassi Jr. High*, *Degrassi High* and *Degrassi: The Next Generation* has heard of the university code. And yet, this season, *The Next Generation* will follow three of its high school grads as they further their education. Few teen series have managed to keep audience interest after moving to college—*Saved by the Bell*, *Beverly Hills 90210* and *Dawson's Creek* being the prime examples. Even a solid show like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* momentarily stumbled when it moved to the overrated megachain “high school in hell, literally” —no longer applied “You just put your finger on some of the reasons why we thought we shouldn’t do this,” says Schreyer. “We gave a lot of thought before we committed—we went into it with our eyes open.”

When CTV promotes the new season of *Degrassi: The Next Generation* as *Next Gen*, two of its protagonists, Veronica Mars (on the CW) and *The OC* (on Fox) will be treading the same territory. But the challenge for each is different. *Degrassi* will be trying not to screw up the thriving franchise. Veronica Mars series creator Mark Goodson made mistakes to survive, and *The OC*, which has recently lost its razzily dispositive, desperately tries to regain the glory of its magical first season. And all of them have to hope young audiences—prone to promo and pop rallies—will respond to newer material, while staying true.

Thinking decision for these shows is whether to send their grads to different parts of the country, or to keep everyone together in the local college. *Dawson's Creek* went the first route and the lay love story—between Joyce and Dawson—was played out through long-distance phone calls. *Beverly Hills 90210* and

*Buffy* were the second way. But by high school graduation, *90210* had already begun to run out of steam, the season were building, and the whole thing seemed like a kindly joke that dined on last-season success. On *Buffy*, university just didn't make sense for a girl whose idea of a graduation is all right at a mall shopping spree. In the first season, it is not straight when Buffy goes back to high school—about as a guidance counselor.

This season, *The OC* is the only series that actually has characters leaving their old homes. University, Scott's at home, and Ryan's at loose ends. But *The OC* loves and dies by the character of its attractive cast, and if they're not playing off each other, there's no point. On Veronica Mars, the whole gang's moved from Neptune Beach to Florida College—where they're being smart enough to hang together the senior and senior group of teens on TV. When it comes to transitioning, no show has run itself up as well as *Degrassi*. For the past five seasons, the canon has been finding new students on their fictional high school. So, even though the first wave of its stars have graduated, there are so many of them to follow back at *Degrassi* Community School. The formula will be two-thirds high school stories, one third graduation—senior writer (and a downtown Toronto university snobby) Page is away at a school remembering Queen's University, and Marco's

secretly living off campus with his boyfriend.

As the seasons turn, the high school students are moved to a housing plot line about senior recap, while the seemingly mundane university life seems fed fresh. A college party thrown by Marco, Page and Elise, for example, is broken up not by the cops but by Marco's father, who drops off some of Marco's stuff and shows his back out lifting furniture. “Don't mind me, kids,” he says, played out on the couch, as the party erupts in a clow.

*Degrassi* gets the details right. It has the best wacky roommate as former-goth Elise moves in with Amberley, a country-themed doorman, soap-boke-making teacher. The student ghosts house Marco and Dylan live in a nice perfect, from the Canadian flag to the window to the mismatched *Silence of the Lambs* couch, and the campus bar is suitably one-like, with a black painted floor to encourage the best stans.

Veronica Mars remains the best written and most of the genre, and though the university setting does offer new cases and clients for the amateur sleuth, it's away from that. Why *Buffy*, she's just too complicated for full-time studies—too cool for school perhaps. *The OC*, meanwhile, has only added to its glossy fate by making freshman Summer a wacko active hippie. Only *Degrassi* looks to be serious and to be a match made in heaven, with creative integration to its Canada and the U.S., it's likely to be the only show that makes it to graduation. ■



**ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE. ACCORDING TO TV**  
Stephen Spurr (an Stephen Colbert) was fresh-talking the U.S. team's Ontario opponents. “They’re gonna kill you, you suck and so does St. John. He hasn’t had a good since since the time of the Blue Jays. What I’ve done now, I’ve done it before.” (I just read the *Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* in 2002, you were wrong.) The *Hilltop Capital of the World*—no get ready to pucker up and kiss her ass.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF HARRIS

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YOUTUBE TAKES DOWN a copyrighted video if the owner complains, but by that time, thousands have seen one of these clips.

## Say hello to the YouTube losers

**A lot of websites allowed people to upload and view video files. But only one got rich.**

**BY JAMIE J. WEISSMAN** • On Oct. 16, thousands of YouTube announced that they'd sold their successful video-sharing service to Google for \$1.65 billion. When you think about that, it's a lot of money for a company that was founded in 2005 and had only been around for a few years. Google and its subsidiaries, including YouTube, have been able to upload and view video files. Meanwhile, there were other sites that got left out in the cold while the creators of YouTube got rich. With sites with names like iFilm, Vimeo, iStock, and iStockphoto, there's been a lot of competition with YouTube even though their names are just so fluffy.

These "YouTube losers" fell into two categories: those that didn't pay any money, and those that paid considerably less than YouTube. DailyMotion, a French site that started up within a month of YouTube, acquired less than one-quarter of YouTube's traffic and didn't land a deal with any large company. iStockphoto, another video content provider, hasn't had the jackpot either, but owner Matt Sigal is hopeful that it might happen once YouTube's fees keep plugging the site. "You have to take care of the downside and the upside will take care of itself." He doesn't elaborate on how much more of a downside iStockphoto will face before the upside kicks in.

Other sites have managed to cash in, but for a good deal less money and per centage than YouTube. Google+ users who sold their daily lives for about half of what the YouTube owners got from Google, and content near the publishing. "I only joined Google+ because it was big at the time," insists Viki of products and marketing Jonathan Shambroom. But he admits "the YouTube market was so much bigger," and was even bigger news.

Many of these other sites are not as profitable

able from YouTube, and some of them provide things that YouTube doesn't. Daily Motion offers better search quality than YouTube, allowing users to upload videos in stereo. iStockphoto has more than 100 million videos, which is more than YouTube. But it's not the only site that has a business model that is different from YouTube's. "Legs, watermarks and links back to where the creator wants consumers to return to when they click."

So why did YouTube explode into a cultural and business phenomenon when these other sites didn't? Shambroom thinks he has the answer: YouTube's creators "were valued more by the public eye and the market than the other sites." YouTube's creators were valued more by the public eye and the market than the other sites. YouTube's creators were valued more by the public eye and the market than the other sites.

YouTube did, and still does, take down a copyrighted video if the owner complains, but whereas other sites pay artists videos to make sure they're not in violation of copyright, YouTube allows anyone to be easily daisy-chained and distributed by the site.

the writer has taken down for violations of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the site has already gotten lots of exposure. And though entertainment companies like Universal have entered into agreements with YouTube to stop unauthorized TV and movie clips, they're still outweighed by the hundreds of other users still posting unauthorized clips every day.

When asked how Google's policy on illegal material differs from YouTube's, Shambroom says, "We follow the DMCA, but we're the letter of the law. We're diligent about that." But YouTube would never have been such a hit if it had had a similarly diligent policy. Hence videos and self-made movies may be fun for the uploader and his or her friends, but it's the copyright-busting movie and TV clips that YouTube users are "the right type of content, that have mass appeal." That means that even though there are many sites like YouTube, there's only one that provides any access to the stuff that shouldn't be on the Internet at all.

Sigal remains hopeful that doing things the above board way will pay off. "Our business is about providing tools and services that enable companies to build their own YouTube and plug into the YouTube ecosystem." But the YouTube success story doesn't seem to favor the people who play by the rules: the trend of this story is that if you follow the letter of the law, you'll probably lose out to those who don't. ■



**ON THE WEB: A DOCTOR'S WEB-SIDE MANNER**  
You expect mass-quarantined patients from a city like New York, but a doctor? On her Myspace page, University of Buffalo medical school resident Marissa Baker described one personal friend as "intoxic," "sex-addicted" and "greasy." She also wrote that another friend had "medical problems" requiring "herpetic medication." Despite protests from viewers that the page is full of credit fabrications, Baker responds, "I think freedom of speech is a real thing."



AN OILY? YOU CAN USE: This vibrator, designed by Textile from the U.K. home decor store Habitat, would be at home in a gallery.

## Good vibrations? More like fabulous.

**'Erotic emporiums' like Kiki de Montparnasse are reinventing the sex toy as functional art**

**BY LAURE GEORGE** • Fashion's power lies in its ability to lend anything it touches—accessories, homes, jewelry—its own sex appeal. Just as a dress can be a statement, so too can a vibrator. The more far-fetched the challenge, the greater the glory. Kiki de Montparnasse is not only a master of this before-but-also a transformative eye on the body and especially the world of sex toys. Earlier this year, when Kiki de Montparnasse, a new luxury sex brand, opened its first retail space in New York's trendy SoHo district, the creative team behind the company characterized it not as a sex shop, but as an "erotication." In the realm of consumer goods, they understood, sex is everything. A vibrator, for instance, is vulgar. But a Kiki vibrator is a piece of art. It's a vibrator, but it's also a piece of art. It's a vibrator, but it's also a piece of art. It's a vibrator, but it's also a piece of art.

The Kiki vibrator, described as "Louis XIV meets Karl Lagerfeld," features hand-carved ebony frames, leather harnesses, and an elaborate collection of erotic art by artist Robert Rauschenberg. The vibrators, which are also available in a variety of colors, are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways.

They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways.

design. "It's all about context," says Pollard. "We have a reorienting kit, which is something you could buy in a regular store with terrible packaging and materials—but we've put it in a previous collection with gold hardware and constructed it as a more luxurious way. It's not just a vibrator, it's a piece of art. It's a vibrator, but it's also a piece of art. It's a vibrator, but it's also a piece of art. It's a vibrator, but it's also a piece of art."

They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways.

been undermined by its own voraciousness. It's the splendorous equivalent of broccoli. She's like Kiki, one could argue, marking the true coming of age of sex-positive feminism. She's like Kiki, one could argue, marking the true coming of age of sex-positive feminism. She's like Kiki, one could argue, marking the true coming of age of sex-positive feminism.

The theory is that in selling carefully designed products in a welcoming environment, luxury sex brands are empowering women to explore their sexuality in an elegant, non-threatening way. It's a level of service that has never existed in the sex toy business. So it's not just about selling a vibrator, it's about selling a lifestyle. It's about selling a lifestyle. It's about selling a lifestyle.

They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways. They are designed to be used in a variety of ways.



**WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT: PARIS CIVIC WINE CELLAR**  
After he became mayor of Paris in 1873, Jacques Chirac accumulated 15,000 bottles of wine for the city. Some were Chirac's favorite. Others were his. Some were his. Some were his. Some were his.



**BEWARE: A SLINGSHOT** isn't something to disrespect Nick by telling a younger brother "Wow," and laughing in an unpleasant fashion

## Hey, boys just wanna have fun

**A book that explains how to make a slingshot and hunt rabbits is a huge hit in Britain**

**BY JULIA MCNEILL** • Ten-year-old elementary school principal Janet Duffy wonders how, with parental permission over kids' safety at an all-time high, a children's book that talks dogs they should own a Series Army knife could ever make it into a bestseller for Nick, age 12, in *The Doggerman Book for Boys* is a huge success. I don't know if for three weeks and has stayed at the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list. The concept has been so successful, which is why Duffy is just now hearing about it. *The Doggerman Book for Boys* and looks like a 1950s throwback, so politically incorrect to parents. It's hilarious. The book had a companion, for instance, it might well tell kids "to hell with warblers." As it is, the chapter on hunting and cooking a rabbit ("break the fore-arm bones with a quick jerk. Cut from head to anus... Then carefully if you're your own") causes one year old Able Wainwright to cry out "Why are you making this so sad?"

Nick's friend, Nick Todd, now gives the book for his 10th birthday. So far, Nick's father approves. He especially likes the true stories of adventures that are interspersed between lessons on how to be a killing lion, how to make a battery, an arrow to grow and flowers. The authors, brother Corn and Bill Giddens, grew up in England in the '70s and '80s. "In this age of video games and mobile phones," they write, "there must still be places for lions, tree houses, and stories of incredible courage."

It's a Friday afternoon when Nick arrives at home to find a surprise (page 30), known in this country as a slingshot. "They do have a serious case of hunting," admits the big idea. "They can be surprisingly powerful and accurate, though this is not something to demonstrate by telling a younger brother 'Wow,' and laughing in an unpleasant fashion."



**MOST IMPROVED** T.R. KNIGHT

The star of *Doggerman* had a hard time when he publicly came out of the closet last Friday. Recently, gossip media reported that two of his co-stars, Isaac Washington and Patrick Dempsey, got into an on-set argument that quickly escalated into Washington choking Dempsey and shouting, "I'm not your little faggot!" The movie discreetly deleted the name of the actor mentioned by Washington. It's now presumed to be Knight's.

allowed to bring in their slingshots. They would be confiscated, she says, "and the parents would be contacted." But that's school. Personally, Duffy doesn't think a slingshot is appropriate for an 11-year-old boy. "These are the same kids who," she says, "are not something I'd up with what the kids present" parents.

In fact, Duffy sees the book's popularity in Britain as a "hopeful sign that maybe parents are starting to relax. We actually have a parent who comes and watches her child every second. She's afraid he's going to encounter some horrible accident on the playground and by virtue of her staying there, it will be prevented," says Duffy. "I have no research to back this up, but I think this generation is going to relax because they are being so sheltered from having an accident [The schools] are putting a parent wherever he holds accountable every step of the way." She thinks parents need to "back off... and understand that we're raising children of experience that are fun and character-building."

Nick looks around for the right word to use and loads his weapon. "The book teaches backwoods and wops at his feet. For ladies like these, see the quote in the book from Sir Frederick Thorne, Sergeant in Ordinary to HM the King, Sept. 2, 1942. "Don't worry about germs and don't worry about not being clever. Just rather to hard work, perseverance, and determination. The best motto for a long march is 'Don't give up. Plug on.'"

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# Tyson's latest knockout blows



SCOTT  
FLECHNER

When Mike Tyson was in his prime, he would throw punches and destroy men in the glittering palaces of Las Vegas. What he could not do was get people to appear on a reality show. Mike Tyson was a reality show.

But that was then and this is... now! As in a painful new law, Tyson is 40 years old, hunched and desperate, and he finds himself in the midst of a testing's apocalyptic, the pathetic demagogue. He squandered hundreds of millions of dollars, amassments of millions more in debt, and had the poor luck to lose off Exender Holyfield's car before the other case, when he could have got good money for it. But he's not beyond being exploited by one more insurance or old-time's sake.

Hence, the ambitiously named Mike Tyson World Tour, which had its debut last week end when the former undisputed world heavyweight champion sparred loudly with a very fat man, in the forced world capital of Johannesburg, **D&D**.

The "light" cost an absurd \$2495 on pay-per-view. Needless to say, I was outraged—and powerless to resist.

**The Pop Show:** Commentators from Tyson and his boxing-punching bag, Carrey ("It'sa' Sunday. You may be surprised to learn that people who have made their living being repeatedly punched in the head do not always make for the most disquiet of interview subjects. These bastards! I've been this much during [sic] Mad Gibson's ninth night. And, as it turns, a question comes to mind. 'Why would anybody buy a heavyweight championship fight on pay-per-view?' That would be an understandable key query! It's a taking of myself. Unfortunately, it's a question that was actually just asked by the commentators who'll be announcing the fight. Not a good omen.

**The bookings.** The arena is a little more than half capacity—roughly 4,000 people. Mike Tyson arrives on such a state cheer. He's 35 lb. above his fighting weight and, like a self-conscious fat guy at the beach, ap-

paradoxically won't be taking off the slowest. Fisher isn't wearing. Spouting of the beach. About 100 lbs. No, wait—that's just Mike's opponent, weighing in at almost 100 lbs. of toned, sculpted muscle. According to reports, T. Rex is partially blind in one eye. According to what he's chosen to do, he is partially stoned in one brain. And now—having tradition! Time to introduce the most recent people in the industry the

disappeared as so the pillow

Taken he's wearing. Speaking of the beach, they? While he's No, wait—that's just little opponents, weighing in at almost 140 lb of toned, sculpted boulder. According to reports, T. Rex is partially blind in one eye. According to what he's about to do, he is partially stayed in one leg. And now—he's being trafficked! Time to introduce the most prominent people in the alliance the

**Round Three:** T. Rex seems to be employing a two-pronged fight strategy of a) staying very still and b) hoping the nasty boxer man goes away. Last time I saw it used effectively was by a side of beef in the meat-lucker scene of *Rocky*. T. Rex keeps hugging Tyson the way a lost girl hugs a mall cop.



He knocks him down, then apologizes? He must have had to sell his killer instinct at auction.

A listers, the business moguls, the super models...or in this case the biggest name in attendance: some dude who has a fight near month in Poland. Apparently Danny Bonaduce had a thing he couldn't get out of.

**Round One:** Unlike Tyson, Sanders comes out wearing "bodygear"—although if you know anything about the abuse he has suffered during his boxing career you understand that the protective device is, by this point, strictly for unarmored purposes. About 10 seconds in, Tyson punches Sanders in the face. Sanders falls down. Striking weakest, Tyson roars in the "apology." Yet, he apologizes. Flinn, must have had to sell off the killer instinct at

nation. A minor-league, the crowd—wasting the coltish lack of boxing staples such as “punching”—begins to turn on Tyson and chain cigarettes. Tyson responds by throwing Sanders his good—and then grabs him by the topknot from behind! The commentators are now openly mocking us: “Mike’s hold us him up! I mean, come on.”

**Round Two:** Very much like a typical day in the marriage of Tommy Lee and Pamela Anderson: a couple punches and a dozen sweetie contracts. By the way, you may be wondering—how fit a Sanders? Well, Tyson just punched him in the gut and his arm.

performer of his big solo number. With none on my list, I begin to wonder what drew us to watch Mike Tyson? I guess it's the same thing that makes us stare at other grotesqueries like *Survivor* or *Survivor's* face. Mike Tyson, seems the commentators have been told "spikes it" because of a permanent gentleman brain flaking a strange action and a few times. They are suddenly enthusiastic and apologetic. "Good punch there," I'm saying this, "amazing." The bell rings. I don't fight enthusiastically! The bell rings. The fight! That's the Waysons comes across the ring to officially pronounce the last of the last of Mike Tyson's dignity.

The *Ad* manly interviewed in the ring. Tyson is asked what's next for him—in it, when will you "fight" again, big guy? Mike responds with a detailed itinerary of his upcoming personal trip to Washington to see his kids. He politely thanks the people of Youngstown. He promises the next bout will be better. Then the interview ends abruptly and Tyson left standing under the ring—stern, furious and alone alone. **M**

**ON THE WEB:** For Scott Feschuk's take on the news of the day, visit his audioblog [www.mediablog.ca/feschuk](http://www.mediablog.ca/feschuk).

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## RECOMMENDED

### FILM

## DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

In trying to explain why you shouldn't avoid *Delmonico* (just because you've seen last year's Truman Capote movie), Anthony Lane offered this backhanded recommendation in *The New Yorker*: "You should not eat it." The same could be said of *D.O.A.P.* Death of a President, another film that arrives with a load of misleading baggage. The faux documentary, which manipulates real footage of George W. Bush to show him being assassinated—and of Dick Cheney giving his eulogy—was hugely controversial when it premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. And the head of the international critics' jury that awarded it a prize has been deleting death threats from his email ever since. But this drama in documentary dress isn't as naughty as you might expect. British writer-director Gabriel Byrne shows no gloze at portraying Bush being shot dead in Chicago in 2007. His scenario, riddled with jerry suspense, is downright chilling. And given what happens to American democracy, it's more a cautionary tale than an incentive to support. What's groundbreaking about *D.O.A.P.* is not its message, but how it re-creates reality for fictional purposes. That's been done before, in *Zelig*, *Forrest Gump* and countless mash-up videos on YouTube. But here the motive isn't comedy or satire. *D.O.A.P.* plays like the prototype for a new genre of political drama. Brian D. Johnson

**PERFORMING ARTS**

**A LOVE LETTER TO THE STAGE**

Giffin and Salovey, the exes, collaborated series penned by British-born, bilingual Island-based Nick Salovey, is this pop-up book for grown-ups. And not as audience. Salovey's, these smaller copiers and 140 words on the New York Times bestseller list last year, has made the transition from page to stage, marking at Vancouver at the Arts Club Theatre on Granville Island until Nov. 4. Giffin is a lovely poet-critic in Britain, who fell in love with Salovey, a passionate South Pacific islander, via e-mail. Their correspondence is sensual, funny, dark, and often desperate. In the play it's

roman dialogue, adding warmth to their love story. Little is said in translation to the stage. Nancy Macdonald

**SHOPPING**

**BABY NEEDS A NYC PAIR OF SHOES**

It doesn't look like much from the outside, but *Amber Shoes* in New York City (60 Rande St.) is a veritable treasure trove for shoe enthusiasts. With wall-to-wall designer footwear spread over two levels, you can find everything from Miss Mery to Marc Jacobs at a bona fide bargain. It's a well-kept secret in Times Square that even some trendy New Yorkers have yet to discover. Michelle Ternopolsky

**CLASSICAL**

**SPIN THIS SYMPHONY**

There's a new recording of John Adams's work out with the evocative title, *My Father Knows Christmas*. Stay it and go to the source: *Yves Spillenger* (Nov. 4) and *Andrew Leman* and the Dallas Symphony. The first symphony from the rebel saint of American music is a grim and pretty student work. The fourth is a symphony of off-kilter marches, hymns and fanfares, thrown together in a mad collage that resembles a mash-up from some time-worshipping DJ. Paul Wells

**POP MUSIC**

**CARDINALS HELP AN OLD SONGBIRD**

Wild be remain not to mention of the Nelson's latest, *Songbird*. Whether it's the presence of

REAL FOOTAGE of Georgia W. is spread like this new face

Jaeger Ryan Adams or the Car drolla (Adams) jam-hunny you sager right looking (band), Nelson sounds like he's having more fun than ever. He's works a couple of his own tracks, branding new life into *Rainy Day Hotel* and *Don't Run*. But his cover of Fleetwood Mac's *Shedding Tears* stands out—it might be the longest on My third, as Nelson's signature seventh note. *Shanda Droll*

**BOOKS**

**THE HAMLET OF PRAGUE CASTLE**

Peter Marshall's *Verdant* is the story of the World describes *Paul D.*, the melancholy indecisive and doomed Holy Roman Emperor who made Prague his capital between 1366 and 1419. A ruler who was a moderate between

"real" science and delirium, *Radolph* employed many of the leading intellectuals in Europe, from Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe to English magus John Dee. And Marshall also beautifully captures a court and city whose fleeting nature of magic, science and religion was central to the transition from medieval to modern thought. Brian Johnson

**TV**

**MORE THAN JUST A SPACE FILLER**

*Alfred* stars Nakamura (Chen Oka) is the most original character of the new TV season in this NBC drama, filled with every-day superheros, Nakamura stands out as a schismatic Japanese office worker who escapes from the "space-time" dream—*Star Trek* style for playing with time. Oka, who still writes computer programs for George Lucas's special effects firm, adds believably to his character's superhero subtextual dialogue and serious. Patricia Thibault





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